RAJAH KISNA,

AN

INDIAN TALE.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOLUME II.

LONDON:

Printed for P. MITCHELL, at his CIRCULATING LIBRARY, North Audley-Street, Grosv. Square.

M,DCC,LXXXVI.

Entered at Stationers Hall.

CHAP. VI.

THE wind blew direct from ſhore a favourable breeze that filled their canvaſs, and the ſhouting mariners gladly ſeized the opportunity to heave their maſſy anchors, and ruſh into the main. Receding Mindano ſoon leſſened to their view, its higheſt mountains were now ſcarce viſible, and now it became a flying

cloud, preſently loſt to the anxious eyes of thoſe who having left their tendereſt ties at home, ſtill looked till they could indulge their ſight no more.

THE experienced pilots ſteered amidſt the numerous iſlands that fill the Indian ſeas with watchful ſkill that well ſecured the fleet, and leaving Borneo to the ſouth, paſſed Paragoa's unhoſtile ſhore, then flying on before propitious gales, Palia's proud turrets ſaluted their longing eyes, they hailed the view, and redoubling their toils ſoon reached the land.

RAJAH Kiſna firſt deſcended his veſſel's ſide, Saraſſada followed him cloſe,

cloſe, and the royal barge-men puſhing to land with emulative ſtrife, both in the ſame inſtant leapt upon the ſhore. The numerous troops of the united army in a few days were diſembarked, and encamped on the well watered extenſive plains of Palia. The royal pair now diſpatched couriers to the court of Malajor to acquaint the queen of their arrival, and enquire their deſtined rout.

ZEMANDRA, whoſe breaſt laboured with patriotic care, was retired to an inner chamber, and penſively reclined upon a ſolitary couch, pondering what might be the event of the Biſnouan war, when the couriers came. The loud ſhouts of the multitude

rouſed her attention, and her virgins precipitately ruſhing into her apartment, eagerly related the cauſe of this tumultuous joy to the anxious queen. She ordered the meſſengers into her preſence, and earneſtly enquired after the king and queen, then with rich preſents ſent them back to inform the royal pair that ſhe would meet them at Palia without delay.

No tidings could be more welcome to Zemandra, than thoſe ſhe had juſt heard, nor could her joy exceed her impatience to behold theſe dear allies, ſhe therefore iſſued immediate orders to prepare for her journey to Palia, and appointed the noble

train

train to attend her. The next day ſhe quitted her porphyry palace at the earlieſt dawn, and enthroned upon a lordly elephant, once the boaſt of the Biſnouan deſerts, ſhe marched with a magnificent cavalcade of courtiers, and a few light armed troops for a guard, towards the plains of Palia, to greet the generous ſovereigns.

THE ſun had thrice withdrawn his fervid beams from the earth, and thrice the griſly tyrant of the foreſt had roamed from his blood-beſprinkled den in ſearch of prey, before Zemandra could obtain a diſtant ſight of the united camp. But on the fourth morning, aurora had ſcarce

gilded Joravan's ſhaggy top, and with her ſilver rays chaſed the dark ſhades of night away, when the flags of Moteira and Mindano appeared full in view; nor was the march of the Malaccan ſovereign unnoticed by the confederate friends. Intelligence of her approach being given to Saraſſada, ſhe inſtantly mounted her ivory car, and ſweeping the plain with ardent ſpeed, ſoon met her friend.

The ſiſter queens at once alighting on the flow'ry plain, flew into each others arms, and in long embrace indulged the mutual tranſports of their dilated hearts—the mingling tears of each to each proclaimed the other's love—words were too faint to paint their

their joys, and in flattering accents only they could expreſs the ſtrong affections of their ſouls.

THESE firſt emotions, too violent for continuance, ſubſided to a gentle calm, and then they joined in friendly converſation upon various topics till they reached the camp, where Rajah Kiſna met them, and Saraſſada thus introduced Zemandra to him—"Be-"hold, oh prince! the fair queen in "whoſe righteous cauſe your gallant "boſom burns to draw the vengeful "ſword."——The perfect ſymmetry, and ſoul-attracting grace of Zemandra's perſon, the majeſtic dignity of her air, the ſoft luſtre of her penetrative eye, and the blooming beauties of her lovely

countenance, which altogether exhibited the moſt perfect proof that Bramma ever gave of his creative ſkill, ſtruck the king with a thouſand new ſenſations of delighted wonder, and for a moment he ſtood entranced inſtead of anſwering Saraſſada, but quickly recovering his bewildered ſenſe he thus replied—"Yes lovely queen! "this ſabre ſhall protect thy realms, "and ſhield thee from all harm, ſo "long as blood ſhall warm my anima-"ted heart."

GALLANTLY then, the king invited the fair queens into his royal tent, where a banquet being ſpread, they paſſed the ſmiling hours in ſocial mirth, till night threw her dark mantle over the

the earth, and called the wearied ſons of toil to reſt. The king had drank too deep of love's bewitching cup to cloſe his eyes. Zemandra's amazing beauty, elegance, delicacy, and attracting wiſdom, haunted his hours of repoſe with a thouſand tender wiſhes, which reflection upon the words of the oracle—"henceforth be thy fate "joined to Zemandra's"—raiſed into the warmeſt hope.

EARLY the next day the three monarchs aſſembled in council. Zemandra began the conſultations by unfolding all ſhe had diſcovered of the deſigns and force of Raxaza, and of the rout he purſued towards her domi-

nions,

nions. She had long maintained ſpies in the enemy's court and kingdom, who by faithful diligence had early informed her of the tyrant's motions, and procured ſome tolerable draughts of the Biſnouan frontiers; to theſe ſhe had added juſt plans of the Caraffcan mountains, which divided the two kingdoms, with true deſcriptions of all the paſſes by which they were to be aſcended, and a general map of Malacca. Theſe were laid before her allies, and with a penetration that did the higheſt honour to her underſtanding, ſhe pointed out the rout which her ſavage foes, ſecure in their own ſtrength and ignorant of her added powers, would probably purſue.

THE Caraſſcan mountains were ſeparated by a narrow valley, winding through from Biſnoua to Malacca, of unequal width, but very ſpacious in the center, where it formed a large area in which an army might encamp. This was the paſſage by which the wiſe Zemandra conjectured her foe would make an irruption into her realms, ſhe therefore urged the king to meet him in the plains, and before he could form his numerous hoſts when firſt emerging from this tedious vale, begin the battle, and ſhe doubted not but their confederate powers muſt then overthrow the tyrant, and gain as complete a victory as ever yet was won.

THE impaſſioned monarch attended to Zemandra with the higheſt admiration of her wiſdom and her ſpirit, but having well conſidered the plans before him, and the temper of the tyrant, he at once conceived the idea of a ſcheme ſtrongly promiſing ſucceſs, without expoſing either of his fair allies to the hardſhips or dangers of a camp.

THE king diſcloſed no more of his intended plan of operations than it was neceſſary Zemandra ſhould know; but ſeeming very little, to depart from the ſcheme that ſhe herſelf had propoſed, only urged the utility of the two queens reſiding in the capital to be ready to ſecond him as the exigence of affairs might require. He aſked Saraſſada to

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let Moſkar lead five thouſand Mindanoans into the field, and propoſed to Zemandra to join ten thouſand Malaccans which were already in garriſon at Majorva, a city bordering on the Caraſſcan plains. This plan he defended with a torrent of eloquence that bore down all oppoſition, and reluctant Saraſſada, though hereby diſappointed in all her hopes of martial glory, was in the end reduced to compliance.

Festivity engroſſed a few remaining days while the Brahmins of the great pagode of Palia prepared for a ſacred oblation to Viſtnou. On the appointed morning the royal cavalcade iſſued from the camp, and proceeded

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in grand proceſſion to the pagode, at the entrance into which they were received by the junior Brahmins and introduced to three chairs of ſtate, covered with cloth of gold and diamonds, under one magnificent canopy, reſplendent with various coloured jewels.

The chiefs Brahman now lighted up the holy fires upon the golden altar, and burnt thereon a coſtly ſacrifice of the moſt odoriferous gums and ſpices, that earth, air, or ſea produces. In the midſt of this ſacred office, Zemandra devoutly approached the ſilver ſhrine of Viſtnou and conſecrated her pearly bracelet to the goddeſs; Saraſſada next advanced and gave her diamond ear-rings; then came Rajah

Kiſna

Kiſna and drawing from his finger a ring of curious workmanſhip, and ineſtimable price, added that to the votive offerings of the day, that with propitious ſmiles the ruling goddeſs might attend his ſteps.

THE morning of ſeperation being come, the king early left his couch, but could not repreſs the uneaſy ſenſations of his ſoul upon the thought of being divided from the loved object of his new but ardent paſſion; this gave a ſerious caſt to his countenance, which was not unobſerved by Zemandra, who altogether unconſcious of the rich conqueſt ſhe had made, aſcribed it to his tenderneſs for Saraſſada, and gayly bade the drooping prince farewel;

wel; nor could ſhe paſs unnoticed the tears of Saraſſada, which fondly flowed in ſtreams when ſhe received the monarch's laſt adieu.

THE fair queens now aſcended Saraſſada's ivory car, and followed by a grand retinue, drove on to Malajor, leaving the Mindanoan troops to march at their eaſe behind, under the command of the valiant Turlakant, who was ſecond only to the brave Moſkar in the field of action.

SARASSADA had ſo abſolutely given the reigns to love in her heart, that all the rational faculties of her ſoul were enſlaved by paſſion; when therefore ſhe had parted from Rajah Kiſna, ſhe travelled

travelled on quite abſorpt in her own chearleſs reflections, and neither ſpoke to nor heard her friend. Zemandra ſurveyed her with compaſſion, ſhe herſelf was naturally of a ſerious reflective turn, but the chearfulneſs of good-humoured innocence gave her a lively ſpirited air which without reſcinding from her dignity, was infinitely agreeable and attracting to others, and at the ſame time preſerved her from deſponding melancholy. She had not beheld the king with all the indifference ſhe wiſhed, but thinking him attached to Saraſſada, endeavoured to ſuppreſs each dear idea as it roſe, and exerted all her powers to ſooth the anxieties of her friend.

THE fair ſovereigns travelled at their eaſe till they arrived at Malajor, where Zemandra exhauſted invention to divert Saraſſada, ſweetly ſuceptible of every human woe, ſhe ſympathized deeply in the griefs of her friend, though to her they appeared much diſproportioned to the cauſe, for ſhe had not the leaſt ſuſpicion that Saraſſada was ſlighted, or that the fair mourner to aggravate her ſorrow began to entertain a jealouſly of herſelf. Theſe were circumſtances which the haughty queen kept impenetrably ſecret from all but her dear Reneca, with whom ſhe paſſed her penſive hours in the deepeſt receſſes of the palace, regardleſs of the royal banquet, the ſages wiſdom, feſtive mirth, and all the various cares

of the Malaccan queen to chear her drooping ſoul.

NOT ſo Zemandra! filled with the love of her faithful ſubjects, and ſtudious to make them proſperous and happy, thoughts worthy of a ſovereign's breaſt well employed her private hours, while the active ſcenes of royalty, ever productive of ſome public good, cheared her noble heart, and animated her princely mind, even when moſt anxious for her people's ſafety.

MEAN-WHILE Rajah Kiſna, whoſe manly breaſt was fired with ardent wiſhes to deliver Zemandra from all her fears, and win immortal glory in

the fields of war, ſtruck his tents, and by haſty marches endeavoured to reach the Majorvan plains, before the Biſnouan tyrant left the rude pleaſures of his palace. When he began his march as he imagined from his maps in a direct line to Majorva, gentle thunder rolled over his head, and by its courſe ſhewed the courſe that he ſhould take, the ſage Naretti explained the omen to the king, and he inſtantly obeyed the heavenly direction. The celeſtial nymph Quendra again aſſumed her guardian powers, and led her royal charge, with all his hoſt, in ſafety over the wild deſerts, and through the intricate extenſive woods of Malacca, to the vaſt foreſt of Jorabab. With unremitting ardour the brave

brave army had marched thus far, nor did their courage flag at the ſight of this black foreſt, whoſe unhoſtile wilds afforded no refreſhment to the wearied traveller through all its rugged paths. Well loaded with proviſions they boldly entered this ſavage wild, and had already marched three days without ſeeing any end to their toil, when Quendra appearing viſible to the king, arrayed in all the glories of her heavenly ſtate, pointed out the ſhorteſt path to the banks of the Jora, and having conducted them thither, bade them halt, and then ſaid,——

"Here reſt thy troops till thou haſt
"intelligence from Majorva of thy
"foes, nor raſhly dare to quit theſe
"obſcure ſhades, till Raxaza, infa-

"tuated by heaven, and a falſe ſecu-
"rity, is duly prepared to become the
"victim of his own ambitious pro-
"jects."—The king bowed obedience to the celeſtial nymph, and inſtantly encamped his hardy troops.

THE Biſnouan tyrant had in vigilance much exceeded the expectation of Rajah Kiſna, and was already encamped with the principal part of his army on the back of the Caraſſcan mountains, where he waited for a junction with ſome other troops, and in the mean time was buſily employed in forming magazines, and taking every proper meaſure to purſue the war without interruption. From this camp he continually ſent ſcouting parties

ties through the narrow valley before deſcribed, to ſcour the Caraſſcan plains quite to the gates of Majorva, and from hence propoſed to himſelf the double advantage of annoying his enemy, and getting intelligence of any forces they might ſend againſt him; but in this latter hope he was deceived, for though Rajah Kiſna's camp was but ſix furlongs from the city, the whole ſpace being filled up by a thick impenetrable wood, he was as effectually concealed as he would have been by any diſtance whatſoever.

In Majorva long had reſided the loyal patriot Arakan, whoſe princely boſom ever glowed with the warmeſt

love of his country, and whoſe benevolent heart was melted at the variegated calamities already ſo ſeverely felt by the peaſant herd in the Caraſſcan plains. He had ſure intelligence of all that paſſed in the court of Malajor, nor was the time of Rajah Kiſna's leaving the Palian plains concealed from his knowledge; wiſely conjecturing therefore that the monarch muſt be near, his ſcheming brain laboured with the great purpoſe at once to lull the tyrant in his camp, and relieve the plains from the haraſſing inroads of the ſcouts. For this he moſt chearfully reſolved to ſacrifice his liberty, and even dared to hazard life itſelf.

He gave the command of the garriſon to his lieutenant Cranor, with full inſtructions how to act, and then as one loſt in thought, and brooding over the dire misfortunes of his country, he penſively walked without the city walls, till being eſpied by a party of Biſnouan marauders, they ſuddenly ſurrounded him, and carried off the chief a willing captive to Raxaza's royal tent.

The noble mien and commanding preſence of Arakan beſpoke him of exalted ſtation in his own court, and the tyrant well marking this dignified appearance of his priſoner, hoped to get much intelligence from him, he ſternly therefore ordered him to approach

proach the throne, and thus interrogated the chief:—"Say, Malaccan! "who art thou? wherefore didſt thou "leave the ſafeguard of the city "walls? what is thy queen now "doing? whence are the vague re-"ports of mighty ſuccours from ſome "foreign potentate who dares to brave "our juſt revenge?"

WITH folded arms, and lowering brow, Arakan ſlowly advancing to the barbarian's ſeat, thus addreſſed the ſavage king:—"Know, tyrant! that "in Zemandra's realm I ſat upon the "ſeat of power, Arakan is my name, "and in Majorva I commanded for "my queen.—Lamenting the diſ-"aſters that thy curſed ambition has

"ſpread

"ſpread over my fated country, un-
"warily I paſſed the city gates, nor
"was rouſed from my muſings but by
"the ſoldiers who enſlaved me.——
"Zemandra waſtes her idle hours in
"the palace, and with jocund ſports,
"and feſtive banquets, detains her fo-
"reign ſuccours at Malajor inſtead of
"leading them to the Caraſſcan plains.
"—Oh wretched ſtate, by woman
"governed! open is the country to
"thy dire incurſions, and unoppoſed
"mayeſt thou march even to the
"palace walls."

HERE ceaſed the ſubtle chief, and credulous Raxaza truſting to his tale became ſecure. Then fearing that his marauding parties might rouze

Zemandra

Zemandra from her ſuppoſed lethargic pleaſures before he was ready to paſs the mountains, he haſtily commanded their return; next ordering Arakan to his priſon, he joined the banquet and gave a looſe to joy.

At the baſe of the vaſt mountains on the Biſnouan ſide, there was a den formed by the griſly monſters of the foreſt, which the barbarians had converted into a priſon. Hither the ſavages to whom Arakan was committed brought their princely captive, and having ſtript this horrid cave of thoſe miſerable wretches who were already there, left him in dreary ſolitude upon the dank earth, to contemplate the noble deed he had done.

Three

Three days he continued here equally hopeleſs and undaunted, but on the fourth morning when the keeper brought him his wretched fare, he ſaw by the glimmering of his torch an opening in the den that ſeemed to invite a farther ſearch. A ray of hope now darted like lightening through his ſoul, for well he knew that in the rainy ſeaſon, a rapid river iſſuing from this mountain ſwelled proud Jora till ſhe burſt all mounds, and drowned the adjacent country. Impatiently he waited the lagging ſlave's return, then with an inſinuating addreſs, ſcarcely to be reſiſted, begged his torch, and obtained the favour. Soon as the ſlave was gone, and he heard

heard the maſſy rock rebound againſt his cavern's mouth, he courageouſly entered on his gloomy ſearch, nor did he toil in vain. After various narrow windings, he came into a ſpacious cave whoſe top he ſcarcely could explore, and this long ſeemed his journey's end; but prying cloſely round the walls, at laſt he diſcovered a hole through which he crept upon his belly till his ſtrength was almoſt exhauſted, when he ſuddenly fell into the bed of a ſubterraneous ſtream, deep enough to walk erect in. His torch was extinguiſhed by the fall, but here he could not go amiſs, and the moiſt ſandy bottom of the paſſage was refreſhing to his naked feet, ſo that he eaſily

eaſily explored his way to the verge of the mountain, till he hailed again his native ſoil, and ſaw the glorious ſun.

Soon as Arakan had climbed the river-bank he fell proſtrate on Caraſſca's plain in adoration of the guardian gods. A friendly peaſant paſſing by, unwittingly rouſed him from his devotions, without knowing whom he hailed; but preſently recollecting the patriot chief, he was ſtruck with grateful awe, and falling at the hero's feet, with loud acclamations proclaimed his joy. From this rude hind Arakan obobtained ſome wholeſome food, and learned where Rajah Kiſna was; for this very day in ſearch of ſtrayed cattle,

tle the peaſant had unawares come in full view of their entrenchments. The chief with haſty ſtrides now turned his wearied ſteps towards the camp; but black night overſpread the horizon by the time he had reached the Jora, where fainting with toil he laid him down upon a flowery bank, and making a ſlight repaſt upon the fruits the hoſpitable peaſant gave him, he reſted till the morning.

CELESTIAL aurora's chearing beams once more gilded the montain's lofty tops, and the feathered choriſters joyfully renewed their melodious ſongs at the approach of day, when Arakan haſtily leaping from the flowery bed, ruſhed into the Jora, and waded to the

the oppoſite ſhore. He was not long in finding a path to the camp, and having reached the outward guard, was ſpeedily conducted into the preſence of Rajah Kiſna, to whom he modeſtly related his own great deed, deſcribed the tyrant's falſe ſecurity, and urged the king to take the field.

THE king heard the noble chieftan with equal aſtoniſhment and joy, and when he ceaſed the glorious tale, locked him in his royal arms, nor quitted the reiterated embrace but with the warmeſt vows of friendſhip. A ſhort repaſt enſued, and then the ardent monarch ſtruck his tents, and paſſing Jora's ſilver ſtreams, magnanimouſly entered on the field of war.

He marched inceſſantly till he came to the entrance of the ſtrait, within the view of which he fixed the royal camp, and here was joined by ten thouſand Malaccans from Majorva. To gain the top of the mountains on either ſide of the vale, was the firſt object that claimed the attention of the penetrative king, for this one choſen band, ſelected from the Moteiranians, was given to Locaſter's care, another of mixed troops from the Mindanoans and Moteiranians, was commanded by the brave Moſkar. With ſteady courage, and ſilent as the night, theſe climbed Caraſſca's ſhaggy ſides, nor ceaſed their toilſome labours till they had reached the lofty ſummits of the divided mountains, and could hail each other

other from their cloud-topt pinnacles. Here they well employed their time in mighty preparations to obſtruct Raxaza in his march.

WHILE theſe were thus employed, Arakan propoſed to the king to lead his Malaccans round by a diſtant ſecret paſs to the Biſnouan plains, where he would lay in ambuſh to fall upon the rear of the tyrant's army when he had entered the valley with his chief force, and at the ſame time deſtroy all his magazines. The king admired this noble project, and inſtantly diſpatched the chieftan according to his deſires.

THESE mines of deſtruction being laid for Raxaza, the king, to

make them more ſure, raiſed a wall of intermingled earth and ſtone from mount to mount to ſtop the paſſage of the enemy, and make them fall a certain prey. All theſe vaſt preparations being finiſhed, the king burned with impatience for the tyrant to quit his camp, when propitious to the hero's prayer, infatuated Raxaza ſtruck his tents, and ſwelling with high ambition to add Malacca to his other conqueſts, precipitantly left the Biſnouan plains.

PROUDLY vaunting in his numerous hoſts he laughed at caution, and ſternly commanded haſty marching through the vale. Valiant Baracar led the intrepid van, the center Raxaza commanded himſelf, and Cazakan, whoſe bloody

bloody ſword in twenty hard fought fields had crowned its lord with victory and renown, brought up the numerous rear. With dreadleſs hearts they ruſhed into this gloomy valley, but ſcarcely were ingulphed in its dire ſhades, when death in all its moſt horrid ſhapes poured in upon them with reſiſtleſs fury.

ARAKAN fiercely iſſuing from the woods in which he lay concealed, fell furiouſly on their rear, almoſt in the ſame inſtant, when burſting through the new-raiſed wall, they met the king in front. Theſe were ſignals to Moſkar and Locaſter, who inſtantly began to hurl huge rocks, and ponderous ſtones innumerable from every part of

vaſt Caraſſca's tops upon the barbarian army, neither man nor elephant could withſtand the horrid force of theſe fell weapons, to which the unpitying chiefs now added unceaſing torrents of burning bitumen, with melted ore, and every flaming combuſtible that fruitful nature bears in her prolific womb, or ſpreads in her wide lap. Unfeeling for the dreadful miſchiefs which in floods of liquid fires they thus ſhowered down upon the devoted heads of Raxaza's ſavage hoſts, they wearileſs hurled the ſwift deſtruction on till not one living ſoul was left to paint the horrors of that fatal day.

FALLEN was the proud monarch who dared to brave the gods! and fallen were

were the mighty hoſts in which he truſted! his trained elephants ſerved but to haſten his deſtined fate, and with their ponderous bodies to obſtruct his way, and overwhelm his troops!— Where was Baracar, where Cazakan now? vain was their intrepidity, their boaſted ſkill, and matchleſs ſtrength! in one vaſt ruin involved, here undiſtinguiſhed lie the coward and the brave. Shocking to humanity was the neceſſary deed, nor could Rajah Kiſna hear the woeful tale unmoved—tears rolled down his manly cheeks, and he half-wiſhed the cruel victory unwon. But as the gods ordained he fought, and piety ſilencing compaſſion, with grateful heart he reviewed his own undiminiſhed army.

Swift meſſengers carried the happy tidings to Malajor, and filled the palace with triumphant joy. In ſolemn pomp Zemandra firſt returned her pious thanks to Viſtnou, and bade an hundred altars ſmoke with ſweet oblations to the guardian gods, to feſtive joy ſhe then conſigned the chearful hours, nor ceaſed the banquet till night had long warned the world to reſt.

To meet the conqueror with ſplendid magnificence, and conduct him in triumph to her capital, now became Zemandra's chiefeſt care. The mighty chieftan Guzaman was immediately diſpatched with congratulations to the king, and in the name of his royal

miſtreſs

miſtreſs to invite him directly to the capital with his conquering army.

RAJAH Kiſna was too impatient to ſee Zemandra again to brook the ceremonious delays of ſtate; leaving the Malaccans therefore at Majorva under Cranor, and putting his army into marching order under Locaſter and Moſkar, he advanced with Arakan and a grand retinue towards Malajor with all the expedition he could make. Already he was three days journey on his deſtined rout when Guzaman met him and delivered his embaſſy. This increaſed the ardour of the love inſpired hero, who would ſcarce admit of needful reſt till he eſpied the grand proceſſion of Zemandra, who had left her

her palace to greet the conqueror. She came enthroned with Saraſſada on a ſilver car of curious workmanſhip drawn by two trained leopards, the moſt beautiful of their ſpecies, and attended by her whole court in magnificent parade.

WITH loud ſounding muſic, and ſongs of joy, ſhe hailed the ſaviour of her people, while the victorious Moteiranians filled the reverberating air with ſongs of joy. Quite unmindful of this pomp, the enraptured Rajah Kiſna only ſaw the beauteous empreſs of his ſoul. Loſt in the vaſt tranſport of gazing on Zemandra, he was quite inſenſible to the fiery glances of Saraſſada, and by this cool indifference,

raiſed

raiſed in her haughty and tumultuous ſoul a war of all thoſe baleful paſſions that follow ſlighted love. Sickening with angry jealouſy, they had ſcarcely entered into the palace, when pretending to faint through fatigue, the neglected queen fled into her lonely chamber, to pour her griefs into Reneca's faithful boſom, and unobſerved to vent her heavy execrations.

SUSPECTING the cauſe of this ſudden illneſs, ſoft pity penetrated Zemandra's gentle ſoul; but viewing the conqueror now with enamoured eyes, and being well aſſured he never gave encouragement to Saraſſada's paſſion, ſhe could not wiſh the penſive queen to quit her lone receſs.

A BANQUET was prepared in the grand ſalon of the palace of all the richeſt viands of the eaſt, and though luxury had never yet appeared within thoſe walls, yet earth, air, and ſeas were ranſacked now to decorate the ſocial board.——Hither the glowing monarch led the beauteous queen, whoſe conſcious bluſhes ſpoke the chaſte flames that quivered in her heaving boſom, while the mutual vibrations of their active nerves inſtantly communicated each ſoft preſſure to their dancing hearrs.——On a throne of gold, moſt ſplendidly embоſſed with the large diamonds of Golconda, they were ſeated together, and the Malaccan, Mindanoan, and Moteiranian princes being intermingled

gled on the right and left, with ſage Brahmins, and valiant chiefs, the feaſt began.

ZEMANDRA firſt poured a libation to Viſtnou, Rajah Kiſna poured forth another to victory, and then the venerable Naretti emptied a capacious goblet of rich Borneon wine to all the deities that rule the earth. Each now eat and drank as fancy directed, and chearful converſation enlivened every heart, till the full goblets having plenteouſly circulated round, reaſon enjoined ceſſation.

THE mutual paſſion of the royal lovers, daily increaſed as they more intimately knew each other, and the

ſage

ſage Brahmins declaring the gods approved their union, they no longer checked their chaſte deſires, but publicly in the pagode of Peramſceri, the venerable Naretti incloſed them in the golden ceſtus of the goddeſs, and raiſed them to the higheſt pinnacle of human joy.

CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

SARASSADA, who had long continued ſhut up in her impenetrable apartment a prey to rage and melancholy, and a total ſtranger to all that paſſed in the court of Malajor, heard the loud acclamations of the palace on the nuptials of the royal pair, which ſo far raiſed her curioſity that ſhe aſcended into a balcony

cony which overlooked the city, and there beheld with aſtoniſhment the myſtic illuminations of the glad inhabitants, and the innumerable throngs that crowded to Peramſceri's golden altars with their votive offerings.

FAINTING beneath the ſtrong agitations of her alarmed ſoul ſhe fell into Reneca's arms, and trembling aſked the faithful confident,—"what "meant thoſe ſounds of univerſal joy, "the animated acclamations of the "populace, and all thoſe grand diſ-"plays of loyalty?"

INCAPABLE of longer hiding from her wretched miſtreſs the fatal tidings which much ſhe feared would crack each

each vital ſtring with more than poiſon's force, weeping Reneca told the diſmal tale, "that by the hoary ſage "Naretti joined in holy nuptial rites, "Rajah Kiſna was Zemandra's lord."

SCARCE had ſhe ſpoke, when the haughty queen ſcreamed out tremendous, then ſwooned, and laying long in the cold embrace of death, lived again but to lament her woes in the loudeſt ſtrains of rage-inſpired grief.

——"Oh! may all the curſes of "all the gods for ever ſhower ven-"geance down on this deceitful pair! "——May endleſs wanderings on "the tractleſs ſeas, amidſt ſtormy "tempeſts wild as now in my tor-

"mented bosom rage, for ever be "the fate of Rajah Kisna!

"Ah! no, ye gods! hear not the "execrations of my madding brain— "protect the hero——oh give him "happiness, and crown his nuptials "with each domestic joy!—but lead "the wretched Sarassada to some de- "sert wilds, where far from the in- "truding eyes of man she may in- "dulge her griefs, and curse her "wayward fate."

Here sullen silence locked up her plaintive voice, and she long remained gloomy and sad, then falling at once a prey to wild distraction, her rolling eye-

eye-balls and convulsed frame, but ill expressed the horror of her impious thoughts. Nature at length being wearied by these terrifying agitations, imbecility introduced a milder temper, and the heart relieving tears burst from her swelling eyes, and run in copious torrents down her pallid cheeks.

THE tender Reneca gladly seized this opportunity to lay the mourning fair upon her couch, and with all the soft soothings of sympathetic grief composed her agitated soul to rest, and was anxiously watching the disturbed slumbers of her royal mistress, when sudden thunders shook the palace of Malajor, and filled the sons

of joy with terror. At once Saraſſa-da's chamber opened to the blue expanſe, and ſhe aſtoniſhed ſtarted from her couch, whilſt Reneca fainted by her ſide: amazement now took place of grief in her royal breaſt, nor was her wonder leſſened by the ſwift deſcent of heavenly muſic, which filling the raviſhed air with ſweet ſeraphic notes, calmed the tempeſt of her tortured ſoul.

With aweful admiration looking whence the ſounds ſymphonic came, the penſive queen beheld a radiant cloud ſlowly deſcending from the heavens, fraught with a jaſper throne, on which in veiled majeſty the goddeſs Patagrala ſat, whom the ruling

deities

deities ſtill kept in ignorance of their wiſe decrees, as one unfit to be intruſted with the plan of providence.—Saraſſada falling proſtrate, with reverential awe hailed the glorious ſight, nor moved from her lowly poſture till the ſmiling divinity bade her riſe.——

"Lo, Saraſſada! in pity of thy "woes I have left my ſtarry throne "to warn thee from this fatal land, "each day's continuance in which "will bring ſome object to thy view "deſtructive of thy tranquility. What "the dark fates ordain remains un-"folded to my view; but wretched-"neſs and miſery will attend on all "thy ſteps in Malacca.—Fly then

"the hated ſhore, nor witneſs again
"the deteſted loves of yon curſed
"pair, over whoſe devoted heads I
"yet will ſhake my iron rod."

THE goddeſs ceaſing, touched Reneca with her ivory wand, and gradually aſcending with her celeſtial muſic to the realms of light, left the queen in a chearful tranquility of temper to which ſhe had long been a ſtranger. Reneca recovered in the inſtant that the palace walls cloſed, and happy to find her royal miſtreſs ſo calm, gladly aſſiſted her to loſe all recollection of her woes in needful reſt.

SCARCE

SCARCE had the roſy harbinger of day gilded the horizon with her orient beams, when Sarraſſada breaking from the arms of ſleep, and recollecting the commands of the goddeſs, ſent the beauteous Reneca to bid her valiant general Moſkar meet his royal miſtreſs in the coral grotto.

THEN haſtily preparing herſelf to ſee the chief, with quicken'd ſtep ſhe deſcended to the orange grove, and paſſed the ſportive fountain of Sirihanuman, where the Idralias ſeemed in gameſome mood to empty their ſhells upon the flying Adires, while the laughing god ſhooting the water through his ſilver pipe to a prodigious height, revenged the flying nymphs

in a heavy ſhower on their foes. This curious work, the maſterpiece of the great artiſt Japhidas, the queen unmarking paſſed, and haſtily entered the coral grotto, arrayed in ſilken robes of azure colour ſhot with white; in her hand ſhe bore an ivory trident, and upon her head a golden tiara, repreſenting a full ſailed veſſel with ſilken ſtreamers flying before the wind. Thus attired, and ſeated upon a maſſy throne richly decorated with old ocean's ſpoils; the penſive princeſs ſeemed the great Grienga, nor looked leſs charming than the goddeſs while in playful pride ſhe thus amuzed her heavy melancholy till her faithful general came.

MOSKAR entered the grotto with loyal reverence, and attentively regarded the queen, while ſhe thus addreſſed him:——"Brave Moſkar! "before night again ſpreads her ſable "mantle over the horizon, I hope to "be far advanced on the road to "Palia. With all the ſecrecy and "expedition that you can, collect my "troops, and let them ſpeedily join "their queen on board the fleet. "Now fly, my brave general, and or-"der my cedar chariot, drawn by the "ſwifteſt leopards of the ſtole, round "to the eaſtern gate of the royal gar-"den, that I unobſerved may eſcape "from this hated palace."

THE

The valiant chief was much aſtoniſhed by theſe commands, but reſpectfully concluding the queen had juſt reaſons for her precipitancy, he bowed obedience, and flew to execute the royal order. The chariot was ſoon ready, and impatient Saraſſada having choſen a few neceſſary attendants, aſcended the car with her favourite Reneca, and fled the city.—She bounded over the plains and ruſhed through the foreſts of Malacca with unremitting ardour, never reſting once in the courſe of this long journey, till ſhe was ſafely embarked on board her own tall ſhip, where ſhe vigilantly prepared for the reception of the troops. The brave Moſkar made

made haſty marches and quickly joined the queen with the ſoldiers. All being ready ſhe hoiſted ſail, and truſting to the faithleſs winds, hoped very ſoon to greet Mindano's ſhore and loſe the remembrance of her woes in the cares of royalty.—Vain hope! alas, how cheating are thy ſmiles! yet were it not for the magic of thy deluſive powers, what mortal could ſupport the various ills of life?

WITH propitious gales the Mindanoan fleet paſſed Borneo's hoſtile ſhores, and the glad mariners began to hail their native land, when the whole hemiſphere was ſuddenly overſpread with thick clouds impervious to the ſun's fierceſt rays; the blue lightening

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lightening then burſt forth, and ceaſeleſs ſhot its blaſting beams, while the heavy thunder with horrid peals continually rattled through the air; the ſouth wind ſtill encreaſing in its force, blew at length with ſuch terrific power that the wearied ſailors unable to reſiſt its violence, ſunk down upon their decks and gave the whole fleet to fly before it where'er it drove. Thus fainting, and in momentary expectation of being engulphed in the raging main, the haraſſed Mindanoans lay, when the tempeſt ſubſiding inſtantaneouſly, there fell a dead calm as ſudden as the ſtorm. This revived the drooping ſpirits of the mariners, and their joy was complete when the fierce ſun beams playing

ing on their heads, at once diſperſed the clouds, and diſcovered a ſpacious harbour to their view.——They laboured hard to anchor in this port, and here they hoped to rig their ſhattered veſſels; but alas! they knew not where the angry gods had drove them.

IGNORANT of the land they made, the hapleſs mariners wiſt not that they had unfortunately caſt their anchors on the ruined iſland of Luconiko, where the barbarous giant Rakalkas reigned in ruthleſs pride over wild deſerts and horrid monſters formed by himſelf; for being ſkilled in all the deviliſh arts of potent magic, he held

held Pixaxo with his infernal hoſt bound in adamantine chains to execute his horrid will.

IMMERSED in the dark cells of his black cavern the exulting tyrant ſaw the prey that had unwarily fallen into his net, and all pityleſs of the diſtreſs by which they had been driven upon his ſavage coaſts, reſolved to ſeize the queen, and barbarouſly enſlave her hoſts. Waving therefore his magic wand, the infernal ſpirits, obedient to his nod, inſtantly drew a maſſy chain acroſs the harbour's mouth, which ſecurely locked in the whole fleet. The giant then aſcending from his gloomy cell, haſtened to the ſhore with a maſſy

maſſy club of ebony in his hand, incaſed in which he bore his magic wand. Being come upon the ſtrand, the ſorcerer ſtood awhile to indulge his gloating eyes with a view of his deſtined prey, then horridly yelling he commanded Saraſſada from her ſhip——the dauntleſs princeſs called upon her courageous troops to defend her from the giant's power——brave Moſkar drew his truſty ſabre, and followed by his hardy veterans, with dreadleſs valour waded to the ſhore —the tyrant laughing at their vain though brave attempt, drew forth his magic rod, and waving it high in the air, inſtantly changed that noble army whom victory had often crowned with high renown into a vaſt drove

of forest leopards—terrified Saraffada beholding the horrid metamorphosis, sunk down as one dead upon the deck, and being seized by the ruthless monster in this senseless state was borne away to his dark residence, unknowing how she went.

MEAN-WHILE within Malajor's gladsome walls reigned mirth, festivity, and joy, with all the social train of blissful pleasures which the bounteous gods bestow on innocence and virtue, Beyond conception happy in the endearing tenderness of Zemandra, seated upon a throne, at whose feet a loyal and obedient people bowed, and his Moteiramians chearfully sharing in the peace and riches

of

of the country, Rajah Kiſna raſhly concluded the flying iſland found, and giving to the winds corroſive care, and every thought of woe, determined here to fix his empire, and enjoy the peace which he ſuppoſed the gods had given. Unhappy prince! while dreaming thus upon imaginary ſcenes of future eaſe and bliſs, how unpenetrating are thy conceptions of futurity, couldſt thou but foreſee a little way into the riſing events of thy life; how would it check the ſwelling joys that now animate thy generous breaſt!

Wise and gracious is the governor of nature in concealing futurity from man, ſince were it otherwiſe he never would enjoy even the hour of felicity,

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WISE and gracious is the governor of nature in concealing futurity from man, ſince were it otherwiſe he never would enjoy even the hour of felicity,

for pain and pleaſure bear alternate rule over him from the firſt moment of his exiſtence to the final conſummation of his earthly being. All from the crowned monarch to the labouring hind feel the ſucceſſive viciſſitudes of joy and ſorrow, tears and laughter.

YET even in its ſevereſt diſpenſations providence diſcovers the higheſt beneficence to man—the ſtay that he makes upon earth is ſhort, and all the pleaſures that he finds there are uncertain and fleeting, checquered with grief, vexation, and diſappointment, and yet all this variety cannot prevent the approach of liſtleſs ſatiety—how then would he ſupport one even tenour

nour of action, and a conſtant calm of temper?

WHENCE are the tranſports with which nature annually hails the return of ethereal ſpring, when clothed in the ſmiles of love ſhe gayly comes to re-animate the earth, but from the remembrance of the lowering frowns of winter? What is the parent of genuine rapture in the human breaſt, but preceding doubts and diſappointments? Whence ariſe the higheſt joys of poſſeſſion, but from a retroſpective view of the difficulties and dangers with which the acquirement was attended? It is in this variety alone that earthly felicity conſiſts; and without it, man would totally forget his dependent

ſtate, nor ever be induced to lift up his thoughts to the future renovation of his nature.

It is the precarious uncertainty of human happineſs alone that binds juſtice to the earth, and by making man dependent upon his fellows, preſerves his beſt virtues, and is the ſtrongeſt barrier againſt his worſt vices. He who has paſſed the greateſt viciſſitudes of fortune is beſt guarded againſt pride, arrogrance, and cruelty; and beſt inſtructed in ſympathy, benevolence, and all thoſe ſocial affections that moſt endear him both to men and gods.

Well would it have been for thee, oh Rajah Kiſna! hadſt thou never have forgot-

forgotten theſe ſage leſſons of thy hoary tutor Locaſter; but experience, that lateſt, beſt inſtructor, ſhall ſoon re-ſettle them in thy memory.

THE firſt tidings of Saraſſada's flight, though it greatly ſurprized the royal pair, after ſhort reflection gave them very little concern, for as they ſurely conjectured the cauſe of this abrubt departure, ſoft compaſſion immediately conquered all reſentment in their generous minds, and clothed their ſouls in pity's mildeſt robes—But when in a ſhort ſpace the wretched fate of Saraſſada was partly unfolded to their view, gentle compaſſion was melted into the deepeſt woe, and the gallant boſom of Rajah Kiſna heaved to carry

a glorious deliverance to the weeping queen.

THE firſt reports were brought by wandering merchants to the port of Palia, and were vague diſjointed tales implying that the queen was loſt at ſea, while others ſaid ſhe was taken by ſome horrid giant, and all her troops enſlaved, but why they ſaid ſo they could not tell, nor was any thing farther known of all the ſad variety of miſeries that oppreſſed Saraſſada felt. The king ſent numerous meſſengers all round the indian ſeas even beyond Mindano, but theſe returned ſucceſsleſs to the impatient king, nor could he gather the leaſt tidings of her fate from any quarter whatſoever.

PER-

PERPLEXING doubts and reſtleſs anxieties now oppreſſed the brave monarch's labouring mind, while gentle Zemandra ceaſed not to weep over the uncertain ſituation of her dear ally, Every method that reaſon or imagination could ſuggeſt was taken to penetrate into the moſt ſecret receſſes of all the monarchs and monſters of the Indian ſea. Every coaſt around was cloſely ſearched to diſcover if poſſible ſome traces of the wreckt navy; but all enquiries were vain, and only added to their conſternation when they reflected upon the total diſappearance of ſo large a fleet, and ſuch an army in a ſea covered with iſlands.

SUCH were the dark clouds that reſted upon Saraſſada's fate when Arakan,

kan, who was next to the king in power, early retired into the royal garden to meditate what next he might adviſe to eaſe the burthen of his maſter's woe. Seated in an obſcure retreat, and deeply involved in the intricate mazes of perplexing thought, he was ſuddenly rouſed from his reverie by Nourjahad, his faithful ſlave, who humbly thus addreſſed the chief —"Attend dread lord! to the viſions "of thy ſlave. Laſt night, ſleeping "upon my pallet, I thought the hea- "vens opened to my view; then ſud- "denly a celeſtial genii darting from "the ſkies thus ſpake to me—Ariſe "Nourjahad! diſcover Saraſſada! this "ring ſhall ſecure thee from all magic "power, and yon bark ſhall convey thee

"thee to the afflicted queen—while "the genii was ſpeaking, the Palian "turrets appeared to my aſtoniſhed "view, and on her banks there was a "noble bark well manned and victu- "alled waiting for a favourable wind "—The viſion ſuddenly cloſed, but "at the dawn of day ariſing from my "pallet, I found my finger encircled "with this ring, and ever ſince have "ſought my lord to tell this wondrous "tale."

"HAPPY Nourjahad! replied Ara- "kan, go! delay not to begin thy "ſearch! take from my palace what- "ever is needful to equip thee for thy "travels. Riches, honours, freedom, and "ſhall be the reward of thy ſucceſs."

NOUR-

NOURJAHAD, elated with the proſpect of his riſing fortune, loſt no time in unneceſſary preparation, but with a few needful accoutrements only haſted on his deſtined travels, and in two days arrived at Palia. There he ſaw upon the ſtrand the expected bark, trimmed and painted juſt as it appeared in his viſion. He joined the mariners without delay, and finding them a merry crew, in high hilarity well-ſeconded their jocund humours with mirthful ſongs, ſmart tales, and witty rapartee. Delighted with Nourjahad's joyous ſpirit the laughing ſailors preſſed his company in their voyage up the Chineſe ſea, to which he chearfully agreed. The winds then ſuddenly ſhifting to the very point they wiſhed, they

they ſpread their canvaſs, and ſhouting left the ſhore.

THIS jovial crew had often traverſed the Indian and the eaſtern ſeas under the aged pilot Jobab, who knew full well the hiſtory of each iſland that they paſſed, and as they voyaged on, to amuſe the vacant hours gladly informed Nourjahad of the revolutions that had lately happened amongſt them.—

"THERE, ſays the narrative old "man, great Borneo riſes, long go- "verned by the wiſe Ramoran, till at "length the Ceylonian tyrant Rawan "luſting for the beautiful Saraſſada, "ſuddenly invaded the peaceful realms

"with

" with an inundation of veteran bar-
" barians, and having killed the king
" in the firſt battle, he gave Ceylon to
" his brother's rod, and aſſumed the
" throne to himſelf."

" NEXT is fruitful Mindano, whi-
" ther, favoured and aſſiſted by the
" gods, the princeſs Saraſſada fled,
" accompanied by the nobles, ſol-
" diers, and chief inhabitants of Bor-
" neo, with her father's royal navy,
" and all his immenſe treaſures. The
" ſavage natives of Mindano at firſt
" oppoſed her ſettling in the iſland,
" but the brave Borneons routing
" them in many deſperate battles,
" fixed her throne, and forced her
" foes to ſubmit to her mild domain.

" Unhappy

"Unhappy princeſs! ſhe is loſt, a
"captive to ſome tyrant's power, or
"ſwallowed in the deep abyſs."

"But there behold the wretched
"Luconſko! ah fly the fatal ſhore
"by ruthleſs Rakalkas held in ſoli-
"tary ſtate. A potent magician he,
"and an enemy to man. No ſooner
"had he conquered the infernal devil
"Pixaxo by the ſtrength of his ir-
"reſiſtible ſpells, but ſeizing on the
"palace of his lawful ſovereign, he
"ſtabbed the pious king, aſſumed
"the throne, and aided by the black
"inhabitants of hell, rooted out the
"whole people with an unſparing
"hand. There now in ſullen ma-
"jeſty he reigns over deſert waſtes
"filling

"filling the fated iſland with ſcor-
"pions, baſiliſks, poiſonous ſerpents,
"and all the griſly monſters ob-
"noxious to the human race that
"the prolific earth ever has pro-
"duced. His power is confined by
"limits of his iſland, but whatever
"wretched mariner ſhould caſt an
"anchor upon that dreary coaſt,
"ſhall never hail his native ſhore
"again."

Too eagerly liſtening to old Jobab's tales, heedleſs Nourjahad here ſlipt his foot and fell into the ſea; the veſſel with ſwelling canvaſs failed on ſo ſwiftly that the mariners could not at all aſſiſt the unhappy wight, who was irreſiſtably carried by the flowing

flowing tide up a large river that waſhed the black magician's palace walls. Soon recovering from his firſt ſurprize, Nourjahad ſwam to ſhore, and landed near the giant's garden-gate, which being open gave ready admittance to the half-drowned ſlave. Nourjahad boldly entered the garden, and his firſt care being to dry himſelf, he baſked in the rays of the waning ſun, plucking in the mean-while of the refreſhing fruits that hung in thick cluſters all around him, till he had eat his fill. Next retiring to a thick grove, he compoſed himſelf to reſt beneath the embrowning ſhade.

He reſted till the ſun was high advanced in his diurnal race, when rubbing his heavy eye-lids, and ſlowly rouſing from his graſſy bed, he began to reflect upon his ſituation, and to conſider how beſt he ſhould eſcape the giant's notice; loſt in theſe ponderings he imperceptibly verged towards the ſkirts of the grove, till through the opening interſtices he had a full view of the palace, from whence he plainly ſaw Saraſſada led by the gloomy monſter Rakalkas to a jeſſamine bower near where he ſtood. So ſoon as the monſter had ſeated the diſtreſſed queen upon a moſſy bank, he threw himſelf unwieldy at her feet, and thus roared forth his paſſion:—

"What

"What weep you for? is not this
"a larger kingdom than your own?
"and cannot the ſame power that
"produced this palace, and theſe ca-
"pacious gardens to delight you, ſur-
"round you with ſubjects too? Yes,
"I can and will if you will be good
"and behave chearfully to me; and if
"you dont it ſhall avail you nothing;
"for if you wont comply as you
"ought, you ſhall very ſoon be forced
"to yield to my deſires. I have
"waited too long already, and when
"the firſt is over you will be better
"tempered. I am going away from
"you now, but ſhall return before
"the moon has twice run her
"courſe."

So ſaying, with lowering brow he left the hapleſs queen to her boding fears, and all thoſe heart ſickening apprehenſions that virtue and delicacy inſpire in female minds when upon the point of falling an helpleſs prey to barbarian luſt.

To accoſt the fair mourner without too greatly ſurprizing her enfeebled ſpirits, now became the confiderate Nourjahad's chiefeſt care. As he ſung well, he wiſely concluded that the beſt preparation would be to make the grove ring with the ſound of his voice, but fear of the giant preſently ſuppreſſed this ſcheme; and after revolving many others, at laſt he

he took a circle round the bower, and at a ſmall diſtance ſtriking into the center walk, with the ſmiles of complaiſance he approached the queen, while benignity and awe was ſtrongly painted on his features. His air was humbly obſequious as he advanced, and he ſlowly moved his feet as fearing to offend. Saraſſada, who had ſeen no human face in Luconſko but Reneca's, was amazed when firſt ſhe viewed the ſlave, but his gentle manners prevented all alarm, and growing eager to ſpeak to him, ſhe impatiently called him to draw on with quicker ſteps. Obedient Nourjahad mending his pace, inſtantly threw himſelf at her feet, ſaying——

"BEHOLD, great queen! Arakan's "faithful ſlave Nourjahad, diſpatched "by my lord to find what power de-"tains your royal perſon, and by "heaven guided I am here. Give "me ſome well-known token to con-"vince great Rajah Kiſna that I have "ſeen whom he, with all his own, "and all Zemandra's force, moſt ar-"dently wiſhes to reſtore to her own "iſland, and I will fly to glad the an-"xious monarchs with the tale."

"TAKE then this bracelet, the "queen replied, Zemandra's picture "here, and here the conquering he-"roe's well-known features, both pre-"ſented to me by thy royal miſtreſs, "thy

" thy truth ſhall warrant—But go not
" yet, the tyrant is abſent from me
" now, and thou mayſt ſafely venture
" to partake of needful refreſhment
" in the palace. Perhaps I too, for
" nothing viſible detains my lingering
" ſteps, may fly with thee from this
" curſed iſle—Ah my poor ſoldiers!
" but we will go in and think."

SARASSADA then led the way to her chamber, which was magnificent beyond the warmeſt conception of the human brain. Being raiſed by magic power as a proof of the giant's love, the walls were ſolid gold, decorated with all the variety of jewels that earth or ſea affords, reſplendently ſet in numerous myſtic figures, equally beau-

tiful and grand. But what alas! was all this ſplendour to the heart rent Saraſſada? For a lonely cottage built on ſome wild foreſt where human face was never ſeen, though griſly monſters were perpetually prowling round, if ſecure from the tyrant's nauſeous viſits, and her army ſafe at home, how rapturouſly would the queen reſign this gorgeous fane, with all its horrid pomp!

When they were ſeated, the queen ſtampt with her foot, and a banquet was immediately ſpread before them by hands inviſible. Saraſſada then bade Nourjahad and Reneca draw near and they all feaſted at one board. Diſtreſs had levelled all diſtinction, as

friends they ſocially eat together, and alternately quaffed the generous wine, till being ſated with the rich repaſt it diſappeared.

PENSIVE converſation now enſued, and Nourjahad had entered far into the particulars of his voyage, when terror and ſurprize ſuddenly locked up his tongue upon ſeeing a large drove of leopards enter the room. They ſlowly advanced towards the queen, and bowing at her feet, paſſed on in regular proceſſion through an open door. With tears ſhe viewed the band, and ſuffered all to go ſave one, which was a ſtately creature that followed at a diſtance in the rear, him ſhe placed upon her ſopha, and with much fondneſs,

and floods of grief hung over his drooping head.——"Ah ſee Nourjahad! "ſee my Mindanoan veterans—leo- "pards now are thoſe brave men that "once an empire gave—this noble "hero, and only this, the ruthleſs en- "chanter has diſcovered to me—Oh "Moſkar! oh my faithful general! "when again ſhall I behold thee in "thy own manly form?"

TEARS ſuppreſſed her voice, and flowed in ſuch torrents down her lovely cheeks, that ſhe ſcarce could ſee the hero whom ſhe ſo ardently embraced. Nourjahad deeply ſympathized in this ſcene of ſorrow, and with ſwollen eyes ſurveyed the metamorphoſed hero till being no longer maſter of himſelf, in

a tranſport of heart-burning woe he embraced his ſpotted ſides, when lo! touched by the heavenly ring, the full proportioned Moſkar ſtood at once oppoſed to their aſtoniſhed eyes. Amazement, joy, rapture, ſeized their ſouls! all was wild extacy and bliſs too great to bear, but at length ſubſiding to a calmer ſtate, each aſked of each "whence this wonder ſprang?" a queſtion this which neither could reſolve, for Nourjahad unconſcious of the potency of his celeſtial ring, never once thought himſelf the inſtrument of this great change, all therefore being equally ignorant of the immediate cauſe joined in their general praiſes to the gods.

HOPE of deliverance now more than ever elated the ſpirits of the drooping queen, already in her high thoughts ſhe had regained her own rich throne, and was ſternly denouncing juſt revenge upon the tyrant, when the hoarſe grating of the iron hinges proclaimed Rakalkas entering the maſſy gates of her lone palace—dread and deſpair inſtantly ſeized the queen; but puſhing the ſlave and hero down the garden ſtairs, ſhe reſolved with fortitude to meet her fate.

NOURJAHAD knowing the road, run off with the wings of fear, and pulling the general on through the garden gate, never looked behind him till

till they reached the ſtrand. The ſea now ſtopped their progreſs, and in dreadful apprehenſions of the ſorcerer, they ſtood aghaſt upon the ſhore deſpairing to eſcape his vengeance, when Moſkar ſuddenly eſpied a boat ſtranded upon the beach; with joint labour they puſhed it to the ſea, and truſting to the aſſiſtance of a ſingle pole, hoped to paddle out of the giant's reach till ſome paſſing veſſel ſhould receive them. They continued but a ſhort time in this hazardous ſituation before a merchant ſhip, bound to Malacca, came within their reach, and gladly climbing its rough ſides, they ſailed on propitious to the port of Palia. From hence haſting to Malajor's penſive court,

they

they arrived too late to ſee the king that night; retiring therefore to a private chamber, in needful reſt they loſt all fear of the magician's wrath.

ARAKAN at the morning's dawn being informed of his ſlave's return, immediately commanded his attendance. Nourjahad waited upon his lord with the joyful countenance of ſucceſs, and precipitately beginning his tale, related the adventures of his voyage with reſpectful brevity. The generous chieftan no ſooner heard that Moſkar was arrived, than he aroſe and flew to greet his noble friend, whom having embraced with the warmeſt tranſports of affection, he inſtantly

inſtantly conducted to the royal preſence.

THE king and queen received the general with every demonſtration of reſpectful eſteem, and heard the wondrous tale of his misfortunes with ſurprize, grief and horror. Nourjahad next was introduced to the royal pair, and delivering Saraſſada's bracelet to Zemandra renewed her tears, and reanimated the impatient ardour of Rajah Kiſna to reſcue the royal mourner from the ſavage ſorcerer's power. Even the magic ſpells of the giant could not daunt the generous hero's ſoul, but truſting to the gods, though yet unknowing by what means he might ſucceed, he drew his blazing

ſabre

ſabre from its ſcabbard, and ſwore it never ſhould be ſheathed again till Saraſſada was reſtored to her kingdom.

SUMMONING then Narctti with the holy Brahmins, he gave them a detail of Saraſſada's ſtate, and as this ſeemed a war above mere mortal powers, conſulted the holy tribe how beſt to act. The reverend ſages unanimouſly adviſed the king in ſolemn ſacrifice to enquire of the gods, but of themſelves could nothing ſay.

THE king then haſted to meet his royal council, and having told the great deſign that filled his labouring ſoul, decreed a ſolemn ſacrifice to the

the juſt gods, that they might be implored to aſſiſt him in this glorious cauſe.

CHAP.

CHAP. VIII.

SABLE night reclined upon a couch of poppies, now infuſed the ſtill air with opiate powers, and gave to wearied nature ſhort repoſe—all ſlept ſave the thoughtful monarch, whom a thouſand royal cares kept waking till tired of his downy bed, he left Zemandra in the ſweet embrace

brace of balmy ſleep to ſtray in the garden's gloomy ſhades,

By ſagacious meditation led, he ſlowly wandered on, ſtriving to digeſt the various projects of his labouring brain, and fix on that which ſhould ſeem beſt fitted to promote the big purpoſe of his courageous ſoul.——In endleſs ſchemes bewildered he waſted night's dark hours, and the morning was far advanced, when his ponderings were interrupted by the ſudden approach of wife Locaſter.——

"Hail, mighty lord!" exclaimed the ſage, "Jakadab, whom as a ſpy "you ſent to Borneo, when the firſt "report of Saraſſada's captivity reached

" your royal ear, is but now returned,
" and thus the cunning ſlave reports:
—" The Borneon tyrant is preparing
" to invade Mindano, and hopes to
" make an eaſy prey of Saraſſada's
" weakened kingdom."

" HASTE, Locaſter!" the king replied, " to valiant Moſkar go, and
" tell the generous chief to take ten
" thouſand Malaccans now encamped
" at Palia, and fly to ſave the capital;
" we ſoon will follow with our Mo-
" teiranian force, and doubtleſs ſhall
" ſecure his royal miſtreſs' throne."

BRAVE Moſkar without delay obeyed the royal mandate, and ſailing from the Palian port, with gales propitious

propitious to his ardent wiſh, ſoon reached the ſpacious harbour of Samarcand, from whence haſting on to Ketteris, with his troops, did all a wiſe and prudent general could to ſave the ſtate.

MEAN-WHILE indignant Rajah Kiſna, glowing with honeſt rage againſt the baſe oppreſſor, impatiently told the lingering hours till he could meet the ſavage tyrant, and glorioufly revenge the mighty wrongs of hapleſs Saraſſada.

BUT lo! loud trumpets and ſhrill clarions uſhered in the ſacred day dedicated to the gods, and at morning's earlieſt dawn, holy Brahmins iſſuing

from the palace gates began the grand proceſſion, which paſſing through the covered ſtreets of Malajor, held on to the ſumptuous pagode of great Bramma, where ſat the god upon a maſſy golden throne, with Viſtnou on his right hand, and Ixora on his left; three ſilver altars of curious workmanſhip, on which in myſtic characters was finely chaſed the attributes of either deity, were raiſed at the footſteps of the throne——on theſe altars the grand Brahman devoutly placed the rich votive offerings of the royal pair, and all the princely courtiers; then on the high altar, in the center of the pagode, lighted up the ſacred flames, and with a magnificent ſacrifice of odoriferous ſweets fed the holy

fires

fires, till clouds of ſmoke inveloped the golden throne, and hid the ſacred images from mortal view.

GENTLE thunders ſmoothly rolling over their heads proclaimed the gods well pleaſed, then ſudden rays of celeſtial light pervaded the thick ſmoke, and rendered viſible, above the golden throne, a ſacred meſſenger from the immortal powers, who thus with loud voice ſpoke:—

"HAIL, favourite of heaven! Ixora "gives the ſword of vengeance to thy "hand! the Borneon tyrant falls! "hoary Sedamma ſhall tell thee fur-"ther what the gods deſign."

THE ſpirit ceaſed, and aerial muſic inſtantly filled the pagode with ſublimeſt harmony; ſofteſt ſtrains now thrilled through the trembling air, inſpiring benevolence and love; then, wild as the Æolian harp, the rapture giving ſounds with more than mortal joys raviſhed the ſoul; when ſudden changing to the ſprightlieſt play of fancy, the mirthful notes animated every heart to lively joy, and irreſiſtably enforced the briſk youth of either ſex into the mazy dance; till at length with ſlow ſolemn ſounds, compoſing every breaſt to aweful reverence of the gods, the muſic gradually died away, and the celeſtial viſion cloſed.

Now

Now the grand Brahman, high exalted on a throne of ſtate, ſpake to the people of charity, benevolence, and univerſal love; of a king's and of the ſubject's duties next; then of all the moral virtues of humanity, and laſtly with the warmeſt eloquence, of religion, piety, and firm dependence on the gods.—To this a univerſal ſervice of thanks and praiſes enſued from a thouſand grateful voices all attuned to ſweeteſt harmony, while an hundred altars blazed with the people's offerings, and then the holy rites were cloſed.

RAJAH Kiſna made the moſt vigorous preparations for the war that his extenſive power would admit! a vaſt

fleet was aſſembled at Palia, and his Moteiranian ſoldiers ſent thither without delay. Malaccan troops were raiſed in all parts of the kingdom to guard the frontiers and protect the nation in his abſence: Locaſter was appointed to aſſiſt the queen, and ſix of the Moteiranian princes, were to command and form the inexperienced Malaccans. The ſage Naretti was created grand Brahman, and to him ſufficient power was given, with the aſſiſtance of magiſtrates, to reſtrain the people from all glaring impiety to the gods. In ſhort, every means that experience, prudence, and wiſdom could ſuggeſt, to make his queen and people happy, and to preſerve them from danger, during his neceſſary abſence, were put

into

into immediate execution by Rajah Kiſna, who then took the moſt affectionately tender leave of Zemandra, and haſting to the fleet, ordered the ſhouting mariners inſtantly to hoiſt ſail and leave the friendly ſhore.

PROPITIOUS gales filled their ſwelling canvas, and proſperous the fleet ſailed on, when on the mid-ſea a Mindanoan bark appeared ſtruggling to get forward, but ſtruggling in vain, and vainly uſing all the art that ſkillful voyagers employ to make their deſtined port, when winds unfavourable oppoſe their way——him the admiral hailed, and hearing his chief freight was letters from Moſkar to the great Rajah Kiſna, ordered the maſter on board

board his own ſhip, and conducted him to the royal preſence.

THESE letters imported that the Borneon tyrant was landed in Mindano with a mighty force; but through the ignorance of his pilots had made the northern harbour of Coukala, where the king himſelf firſt landed, inſtead of Samarcand; ſo that he had a vaſt tract of barren wilds, and rough foreſts to lead his forces through, as well as high mountains to clamber, and rapid rivers to ford, which would ſubject him to ſuch difficulties and delays, and ſo much expoſe him to the Mindanoan light troops, that Moſkar doubted not conſiderably to weaken Rawan's army, and eaſily to defend the

the capital till the king's arrival, eſpecially as he had ſtrengthened all the walls with ſuch mighty works as muſt render them almoſt impregnable, and had ſo well improved the happy ſituation of the town by all imaginable preparations, as to enable the largeſt army to ſubſiſt in plenty without the alarming fears of future want.

REJOICED to hear the baſe invader had involved his numerous army in ſuch inſuperable difficulties, and greatly pleaſed at the conduct of the brave general, Rajah Kiſna doubted not to reach Ketteris time enough to ſcourge the tyrant, and more calmly than of late he had done, reſigning himſelf to needful reſt, ſlept the peace-

ful

ful ſleep of virtue; no midnight hags diſturbed his fancy, no rueful phantoms ſcared his ſteady ſoul; he neither climbed the rocky precipice, nor ſtrove in vain to fly from the robber's murderous ſword; free from all the frightful ideas bred by blood impure, or ariſing from troubled fortune, or from ſecret guilt, his dreams were gay and lively, the ſportive play of an imagination warmed with love and joy, he ſaw his radient queen, and encircled in her lovely arms, poſſeſſed the pureſt rapture of the human mind; then with reſcued Saraſſada to her realms reſtored, again he wandered over the peaceful plains of Mindano; and ſettled in his own domain, he ſeemed in the full exerciſe of royal

powers,

powers, to all his people to communicate the happineſs himſelf enjoyed.

In far other dreams paſſed the dark hours of the Borneon tyrant; his gloomy ſoul, harraſſed with conſcious guilt, knew no reſt; the dæmons of revenge with ſcorpion ſtings hovered round his couch, the terrors of his black imagination rioted, and haggard ſprights froze up his harrowed ſoul with ghaſtly horrors.

The tyrant had reached the mountains of Cranganor, guided by the renegado Koulagan, who now diſcovered to his haughty lord, "that in a "vale between theſe lofty mountains, "Rajah Kiſna had placed the holy "fire

"fire which he brought from Mal-
"divia; and here appointed nume-
"merous Brahmins to keep alive that
"juſt emblem of celeſtial Viſtnou's
"vivifying power. This, ſays the
"miſcreant youth, the hoary tribe
"now watch with ſleepleſs zeal, as
"well knowing that if the ſacred
"flames are once extinguiſhed, their
"angry goddeſs will deign no more
"to viſit man, or in oracles divine
"expound his future fate."

IMPIOUS Rawan inſtantly reſolved to deſtroy the ſacred fire, with the holy Brahmins that attended it; and having in all his vaſt army none ſo fit to execute this ſacrilegious purpoſe, as Koulagan himſelf, to him he gave the command

command of ten thouſand veteran troops and haſtily detached him to attack the happy vale, where peace dwelt with innocence and piety undiſturb'd till now.

KOULAGAN elated with malicious joy received this infamous command, which gave him, as he thought, the wicked power at once to ſeize the heaven-devoted mind Zelinda, and ſtate his vengeful temper in the blood of the holy Brahmins, who hitherto had ſecurely guarded the fair from all his baſe attempts.

THIS unworthy offspring of the virtuous Kowlang was born in Mindano, his father was a valiant chief to whoſe command fair Saraſſada aſſigned the northern province, where he would

would have lived in the full enjoyment of earthly felicity had not his ſon diſcompoſed the peace of his hoary days. Koulagan from his firſt infancy manifeſted a malignant heart, his temper was ſulky and revengeful, his paſſions mean and ſordid; but being ſtrong and robuſt of body, he was brave and daring in the field.

Once hunting the ſavage tyger through a tract of cultivated land that had hitherto eſcaped his cruel devaſtations, he ſaw the beauteous Zelinda, daughter to the happy peaſant Morab, ſpinning at the cottage door. The gloting eyes of Koulagan ran over the lovely minds enchanting form, and he drank in ſuch large draughts of love,

as

as for the preſent fixed in his black heart the new ſenſations of a virtuous paſſion. Wit gave a luſtre to the virgins eyes, an improved underſtanding heightened the expreſſion of her lovely features, while innocence and virtue added a dignity to her mien, which awed this tyrant lord into a reſpectful ſuiter. Trembling he approached her, and in ſofter language than ever yet had flowed from his tongue, declared the warm wiſhes of his ſoul; unmoved Zelinda heard his vows and proteſtations, ſhe too well knew the baſe temper of this hated youth, to ſympathize with his paſſion, and beſides, with the generous ſhepherd Alcander had oft exchanged the vows of mutual love.

KOULAGAN finding his adreſſes to the fair quite fruitleſs, applied to her parents, who being blinded by the greatneſs of the offer, and the dignified ſtation to which their favourite would be advanced, employed both threats and promiſes, with all the arguments that reaſon or affection could ſupply to enforce his ſuit; but all their endeavours were to no purpoſe, the faithful maid continued conſtant to Alcander, and diſdainfully rejected every propoſal the young lord could make.

ENRAGED beyond all bounds by Zelinda's ſteady conduct, Koulagan was driven to the villain's laſt reſource, and reſolved by brutal force

to

to bend the ſoul of this virtuous maid to his beaſtly will: for this vile purpoſe he formed a ſtrong party of truſty ſlaves, trained to obedience, and callous to the cries of diſtreſs. With this vile band, when the morning's gilded rays called forth the labouring peaſants to the field, he rudely entered the village in which Zelinda lived, and relentleſs tore the ſcreaming fair one from the feeble arms of her ſtruggling parents.

THE wretched father ſoon informed Alcander of his daughter's fate, and the generous ſhepherd inſtantly ſummoning his brave companions to his aid, followed the raviſher with an arrow's ſpeed, and overtook him on the

plains; a bloody battle now enſued, and laſted long, but in the end the diſciplined ſlaves broke through the ſhepherd band, and having killed Alcander ſoon diſperſed the reſt.

MEAN-WHILE Zelinda profiting by the confuſion, boldly ſeized the horſe of a diſmounted ſlave, and with all the ſpeed that fear inſpires rode off ſhe knew not whither, but guided by the gods ſhe entered the ſacred vale where alone her innocence could be ſecured. Long in uncertainty of the battle's event, her ſoul was diſtracted between hope and fear, till an holy Brahman pitying the increaſing agitations of the tender maid, went to her native village to gather tidings, and re-

turned

turned with the ſad tale of Alcander's diſaſtrous fate. With keen ſenſibility ſhe felt this heavy ſtroke of affliction, and long wept her love in theſe pious ſhades, but time in the end had calmed her grief, and with pious reſignation to the gods, ſhe conſecrated her future days to the ſacred fire, where ſhe yet remained a virtuous veſtal when the war began.

KOULAGAN, after long ſearch, heard where Zelinda was, and often impiouſly attempted by ſurprize or force to ſteal her from the holy altar; but being baffled in all his ſchemes, he ſwore to take a black revenge, and flying to the Borneon tyrant, perſuaded him to invade Mindano that

he might execute his threats, and wreak his vengeance on the hoary Brahmins.

THE ſeaſon was now advanced in which that holy tribe celebrated the feſtival of the roſe, or the marriage of Kanareon (or winter) with Zepha (the ſpring.) Unknowing of the dangers that lowered over them, the ſacred virgins iſſued from their peaceful caves at earlieſt dawn, and with ſoft muſic hailed the riſing ſun, with louder notes than calling forth the Brahmins to their ſanctimonious rites, they in proceſſion walked round the vale and ſtrewed the ſacred path with roſes.

Now

Now the chief ſage approached the holy altar, his hoary locks bound up in a chaplet of roſes, and his ſnowy veſtments in ample folds floating through the air, then plenteous ſtrewing the altar with this ſweet-ſcented gift of Zepha, he lighted up the morning flame, and to ſymphonious muſic ſung the following ode:—

ODE.

RECITATIVE I.

WHERE meand'ring Siemena glides along,
And cluſt'ring vines inſpire the feſtive ſong,
Beneath the lofty poplar's friendly ſhade,
Kanareon on a bed of roſes laid,
To ſooth the flames that did his boſom fire,
In ſprightly ſtrains thus tun'd his vocal lyre:—

AIR

AIR I.

ROSES, Brahmins! now prepare
To adorn ſweet Zepha's hair,
Roſes ſuch as Chu'rin loves,
When through Amrith's ſportive groves
Vendra's arms ſhe flies to join
Jovial Bucchus, god of wine;
Wine that beauty does improve,
Wine that vigour adds to love.

II.

GAYER than the fineſt flow'r
That adorns fair Jexca's bow'r,
Nought that ſcents the fragant air,
With ſweet roſes can compare:
Roſes Bramma's ſelf muſt prize,
In his vaulted ſpangled ſkies;

Nor

Nor could fam'd Alcinous ſhew,
Aught to equal them below.

III.

CUBRA, when he would be fine,
For his ſport amongſt the nine,
Garlands for his brow compoſes,
Made alone of beauteous roſes;
And when Bramma gave them birth,
"Life," he ſaid, "was made for mirth,
"Roſes ſhall teach man his cue,
"Wine to drink, as they drink "dew."

IV.

BRAHMINS haſte! your taſk purſue,
Zepha's chaplets let me view;
Nothing

Nothing but the blooming roſe,
Shall your miſtreſs' brow incloſe,
While around my hoary head,
Bacchus curling branches ſpread,
Through the world this truth ſhall blaze,
Love and wine alone I'll praiſe.

RECITATIVE II.

Thus ſung the bard, and with new vigour fir'd,
To Zepha's ſweet embraces he aſpir'd,
Nor could the nymph the rapt'rous joys decline,
Aſſail'd at once by love and gen'rous wine;
But unreluctant to the bridal bed,
By old Kanareon was inſtant led,

Who

Who, at fair morn's approach, renew'd his ſong,
And thus the ſtrains mellifluous roll'd along.—

AIR II.

ZEPHA's mine! oh happy fair!
Age no more thy youth ſhall ſcare,
On your cheeks behold the roſe,
My white head the lilly ſhews,
In cloſe union now coubin'd,
See the roſe and lilly join'd;
Thus love's garland we'll compoſe,
I the lilly, you the roſe.

II.

Now to Bacchus raiſe the ſong,
Feſtive ſtrains to him belong;

Bramma

Bramma to wake the ſoul to mirth,
In good humour gave him birth,
Bade him ev'ry paſſion fire,
Arts, and arms, and love inſpire,
Free the mind from care and ſtrife,
And give joy to human life.

III.

BACCHUS crowns the roſy bowl,
And elates the manly ſoul,
Jolly mortals would you know,
Friendſhip, mirth, and joy below,
Let the ſparkling glaſs go round,
Bliſs in love and wine is found;
Wit and wiſdom wine imparts,
Love to rapture lifts our hearts.

SCARCE had the bard finiſhed theſe ſtrains, when a ſullen ſmoke involved

the

the altar, the holy fire quivering ſeemed almoſt extinguiſhed, and growling thunder denounced ſome ſudden danger near,—ſtarting from their unfiniſhed ſolemnities, the wiſe Brahmins ſeized the conſecrated flame, and with the veſtal virgins burying it far in their gloomy cells, haſted to prepare for the ſure deſtruction of the expected foe. From the mountain's top a hoary Brahmin ſpied the glittering helmets of the Borneon ſoldiers, and recognized the miſcreant Koulagan at their head; then haſting to his undaunted brotherhood, reported the path they came. The chief Brahman now waved his rod of power, and raiſed a fierce potentous troop to appall the ſtout foe, and terrify

rify them from their ſacrilegious purpoſe. Each rocky eminence, every buſh, and every tree was clothed with a livid fire, mean-time rattling thunders ſhook the air, and then as from a thouſand caverns, the terrific furies burſt, who with hair diſhevelled, and hurling horrid flames around, ran to and fro' in fierce and frantic mood menacing quick deſtruction.——The Borneons ſtood aghaſt; but impious Koulagan furiouſly ruſhing upon this terror ſtriking foe—fired by his brave example, the ſoldiers with invigorated ſtep marched ſteadily on, till with fixed courage they entered the ſacred plain, where two thouſand Brahmins, trained in martial as well as holy exerciſe, ſtood ready to receive them,

and

with vindictive rage daſhed a fierce volly of deathful darts upon their heads.—Koulagan then haſtily formed his troops, and gave the wood for cloſe conflict, but the brave Brahman Bajador ſeeing them drawn up upon the very ſpot he wiſhed, blew loud the ſacred trumpet a ſignal to the hoary tribe beneath, when in an inſtant the cracking earth with a tremendous noiſe gave way, and Koulagan with his force, ſave the coward Norakan, fell headlong into the caves below, where was prepared a bed of iron ſpikes ſtaked upon which they met the torturing death their impious attempts ſo richly merited.

LEFT now in quiet poſſeſſion of their peaceful vale, the holy Brahmins ſoon repaired the miſchiefs of the war; while the daſtard Norakan flying with the wings of fear, overtook the army of the tyrant, and terror-ſtruck! exaggerated all the ill that befel Koulagan into the immediate vengeance of the gods—Rawan impatiently attended to his tale, then ſtabbed his baſe heart, and with horrid imprecations ſwore to take a ſevere revenge upon the holy tribe as ſoon as Ketteris was fallen.

MEAN-TIME Rajah Kiſna, forſaken by the propitious gales which blew him proſperouſly forward at the firſt, had ſcarce paſſed Borneo when he was

driven from his courſe, and toſt about amidſt the iſlands of the eaſtern ſea, till the giant had reached the plains of Ketteris, encamped his troops, and begun the ſiege with his diminiſhed, but ſtill numerous army. Moſkar, who had great experience in the art of war, and was thoroughly acquainted with the country, bravely reſolved to attack the enemy in his unfiniſhed camp; ſoon therefore as night had dropt her ſable curtain, the hero ſilently marched from the city, and going round a ſmall hill, at the foot of which the tyrant had pitched his tents, ruſhed with the ſudden thunder of his ſhouting troops into the midſt of the camp, dealing forth death and deſtruction where'er he came, till Rawan having

having haſtily formed a ſmall body of his guards made a vigorous ſtand; and now the action became warm and bloody; but Moſkar perceiving the whole Borneon force was forming with great expedition, ſet fire to the tents, and prudently retreated in the confuſion with little loſs.

THE valiant general had not yet called in his light troops, and diſdaining to ſit idly immerſed within the walls of Ketteris, while any communication with the country was left open, he frequently left the city to join theſe brave ſoldiers, and conduct their harraſſing enterprizes againſt the foe, one time cutting off their convoys and ſeizing the proviſions made for

the camp, at another making incurſions to their very lines, and ſometimes even forcing their entrenchments, in this flying war; thus he kept the tyrant in continual alarms, and protracted the raiſing of the works deſigned againſt the town, till blazing fires lighted on all the rocks of Samarcand, proclaimed to the rejoiced Mindanoans the king's arrival in that ſpacious harbour.

MOSKAR now drew all his forces into the city, where Rajah Kiſna ſoon after entered with his Moteiranians, and having received from the brave general a modeſt detail of all his exploits, he affectionately embraced him at the head of his army, thus in the moſt

moſt public manner teſtifying his eſteem of wiſdom and valour.

THE tyrant was informed by a villainous deſerter of the reinforcement brought by the Malaccan monarch, but nothing daunted, continued his works with unremitting ardour, and already he had raiſed a mount againſt the walls whoſe broad ſummit would contain a thouſand men drawn up in battalia, from which he threatened to pour in irreſiſtible inundation of Borneons on the town; but the king bravely iſſuing into the plain with thirty thouſand Moteiranians, dared the tyrant to battle. A fierce engagement enſued, and long and bloody was the conteſt, while victory hovering in the air ſeemed

doubtful where to reſt her pinions till the couragious monarch ſabre in hand breaking through the center of the Borneon army, at the ſame inſtant that fierce Arakan routed the left wing, the flight of the foe became general, and ſcarcely did they think their ſtrong camp ſufficient for their defence; but Rajah Kiſna judging it of more conſequence at preſent to deſtroy the potentous works raiſed againſt the walls than to follow the routed foe into their camp with his wearied troops, called forth the citizens to his aſſiſtance, and in a few hours had not only levelled the mountain, but deſtroyed every other mighty work which the cunning Rawan had invented to aſſail the town, then leading his victorious army into

Ketteris,

Ketteris, reſted from the toils of this glorious day.

AFTER this defeat, the ſullen tyrant remained long cloſe ſhut up within the camp, a prey to all the wrathful paſſions; his greateſt generals ſcarce durſt approach him, and of his ſlaves and courtiers he daily made a numerous ſacrifice to rage and baſe revenge.

THE brave king impatient to end this war, and carry his arms againſt the monſter Rakalkas, often challenged Rawan in the open plain, and often attacked his camp; but in vain he braved the tyrant forth, till threatening at length the beſiegers to beſiege, the cunning giant gueſſed his inten-

tions from his preparatory work and was urged by deſpair to try again his fortune in the field.

THE Bloody morning came when Rawan at the earlieſt dawn drew up his troops in the plains of Ketteris, with the ſkill of an experienced warrior, aſſigning the left wing to Kalangar, and the right to Wowada, mighty chiefs! who had won many battles, and ſcarcely knew what it was to be defeated; the center the tyrant reſerved to himſelf. Rajah Kiſna had the earlieſt intelligence of Rawan's motion and undauntedly determining to ſieze the glorious opportunity, inſtantly ſallied into the plain with all his forces, and ſpeedily formed his army in

in battle array beneath the city walls. To wiſe Arakan he gave the command of the right wing, and to brave Moſkar the left; but perceiving the chief ſtrength of the enemy to be lodged in their central body, he would not truſt the center of his own army to the command of any but himſelf.

THUS arranged the two monarchs advanced to the midſt of the plain, and having firſt exchanged a furious ſhower of miſſive darts, which were vollied through the air with deathful force, and tremendous fell like rattling hail on the helms and corſelets of each army, now ſabre in hand they joined man to man in fierceſt conteſt. Long they fought with equal courage, and victory

victory wavered oft in her reſolves whether to Rawan or to Rajah Kiſna ſhe ſhould give the palm. The virtuous king impatient to end this doubtful ſtrife, and ſeeing Moſkar was oppreſſed by numbers, and ready to give way, with the quickeſt ſpeed he diſpatched bold Agra to the brave general's aid, and then with a choſen band of faithful veterans ſuddenly ruſhed upon the foe, when like a mighty torrent fiercely bearing down all before him even to the royal ſtandard, Rawan boldly met the king to oppoſe his progreſs, and now hand to hand in ſingle combat, as when in Africa's vaſt wilds the generous lion meets the raging elephant, they fought—horrid was the unequal conteſt and long uncertain

the

the event, till at length the giant lifting up his terrific ſabre as thinking with one blow to end the ſtrife, left his huge body guardleſs, the quick-eyed king inſtantly ſaw his advantage and with the lightening's ſpeed ſent his truſty ſword through the giant's heart, who hideouſly roared and falling at the victor's feet, gave up his black ſoul with dire imprecations to the vengeful gods.

The tyrant dead, the Borneon army preſently was broke; and, being routed in all quarters, precipitately fled to their camp in the greateſt confuſion. The king's forces entered with them, and now a bloody carnage enſued, till the ſoldiers were even wearied

ried with ſlaughter, then compaſſion penetrated the breaſt of Rajah Kiſna, and he haſtily ordered the ſhrill clarions to call the conquerors off. Thus leaving the trembling foe to think over the means of future ſafety, the victor triumphantly entered Ketteris amidſt the general acclamations of her delivered citizens, and enjoyed the higheſt tranſports of felicity that the human ſoul is capable of feeling.

THE Borneon general Kalangar eſcaped from the bloody carnage that inſtantly followed Rawan's fall, and being now the chief in command, aſſumed the royal power, which he firſt diſplayed by ſending the noble Kowra to the king with full commiſſion to

treat

treat for the army's ſafety. Kowra entered Ketteris under a flag of truce, and demanded inſtant audience of the king, before whom he artfully painted the ſtrength that was left in the Borneon army, and the miſchief that muſt enſue from their continuance in Mindano, and then beſought permiſſion peaceably to withdraw to their fleet.

To which the king replied—"Like "baſe robbers, who cowardly fall on "the defenceleſs, you entered this "peaceful territory, and deſerve like "robbers to be treated, but as the be-"nevolent affections are infinitely "more honourable to human nature "than revenge, we will be guided "thereby in our treatment of your fallen

"fallen troops; let them tomorrow be "drawn up in the great plain of Ket-"teris and advancing to the ſpot on "which the battle was fought lay "down their forfeit arms, then may "they depart in peace."

WITH this degrading meſſage Kowra heavily returned, and having informed Kalangar thereof, the chief reluctantly conſented to the ſtern decree. Soon as the morning gladdened the earth with her vivifying beams, the Borneons mournfully left their camp, and ſeeing the king's forces in battalia under the walls, ſlowly marched to the central point, where they piled up their arms in pyramidal form, and then fell back to a great diſtance,

while

while the victorious troops advancing as the enemy receded, came to the pyramid with loud ſhouts ſurrounded and ſeized the pile.

KALANGAR then came forward with a brave, though humble port, to learn the king's reſolves. Rajah Kiſna mildly reaching forth the ſcepter of grace to the undaunted hero, received him with the ſmiles of benevolence, and aſſured him of an eſteem for his perſon, and ſafe paſſage for his army, then ordering all the Nairo's to reſume their relinquiſhed arms, invited them to a ſumptuous banquet on the plain. This day paſſed in feaſting, and on the morrow the Borneons began their march. Conducted by the king's

king's guides, theſe ſhattered troops ſoon boarded their own fleet and without farther diſaſter landed on their native ſhores.

THUS glorioufly ended the Borneon war, and the impatient king now turned all his agitated thoughts on Saraſſada; inceſſantly grieved for her captivity, and longing with the moſt heroic ardour for her deliverance, he ſcarce could brook the neceſſary delay of a luſtration e'er he began the holy rites through which he hoped to diſcover the means of overthrowing the black Sorcerer's power.

CHAP.

CHAP. IX.

ROUGH and ſtormy had been the day, and ſtill the hoarſe winds bellowed over the raging main, when dun evening ſpreading the horizon with her embrowning ſhades, invited Rajah Kiſna to indulge reflection on the foaming beach, which was

too juſt an emblem of his agitated mind!

Long he had not walked, when he ſaw at a ſmall diſtance on the ſwelling ocean a bark diſtreſſed and ſtruggling againſt the roaring waves, now raiſed aloft ſhe ſeemed on ſome vaſt mountain's pinnacle, then daſhed at once into the deep abyſs ſhe appeared overwhelmed and loſt beneath the furious waves; thus helpleſs driving on till with tremendous force ſhe ruſhed againſt a rock, and ſplitting in ten thouſand pieces covered all the ocean with her wretched wreck.

The hapleſs mariners ſeizing on the ſcattered planks ſtrove hard to reach

reach the ſhore; but vain, alas! were all their ſtruggles! one only ſwam ſucceſsful to the land, nor would he ever have reached the ſhore alive, had not the rough waves rolled him towards the king, who pitying his diſtreſs, with matchleſs vigour ruſhed into the ſea, and drove him on to the hoſpitable beach, from whence with meek-eyed humanity he led the half-dead ſtranger to a place of ſafety, where ordering needful refreſhment to be given him, was about to go, when Nourjahad, for Nourjahad it was! ſudden threw him at the monarch's feet, and humbly brought him to recollect his ſlave. The aſtoniſhed king with wonder ſaw the diſcoverer of Saraſſada, but perceiving him much

fatigued, bade him reſt this night, and to-morrow in the palace tell what brought him from Malacca.

HOPING for tidings from his loved Zemandra, the king early left his wakeful couch, and deſcending to the garden, entered a myrtle bower where he ſat impatient till Nourjahad came. The monarch received him with gracious ſmiles, and bade him faithfully relate the purport of his voyage.—— Nourjahad then proceeded thus:—

"MOST potent king! my royal miſtreſs Zemandra frequently heard of her loved lord, but ſighed in vain to learn fair Saraſſada's fate; tenderly ſuſceptive of friendſhip's ſoft alarms, ſhe

ſhe wiſhed yet dreaded to know the cauſe of Rakalkas' ſudden return to the palace, and the event of the expected interview between him and her captive friend; her fears grew daily more potent; and perceiving the Borneon war likely to be protracted much beyond her firſt hopes, her anxieties even preyed upon her health, then it was that ſhe ſent for me, and graciouſly condeſcended to employ your ſlave again to ſeek the curſed iſland of Luconſko, that I might ſtrive to gain intelligence of her fair friend.

"WITH loyal diligence I haſted on board a bark provided for me in the port of Palia, and drove before the ſmiling winds to the enchanted

ſhore without diſaſter, here getting into a ſmall boat I left the bark to anchor on an adjacent iſle till my return, then rowed on to land, and was ſwiftly carried by the flowing tide up the ſame river that I ſwam before.—Dreadleſs of danger I proceeded, till the narrowing river preſented to my aſtoniſhed view each bank covered with poiſonous ſerpents, death-ſtinging ſcorpions, or the fierceſt monſters of the foreſt, all ſeeming ready to tear my trembling body with their horrid fangs, or dart ten thouſand poiſons through my fainting ſoul. Higher up the ſtream I ſailed, but ſtill beheld the ſame drear proſpect, in various ſhapes the ghaſtly troop appeared, and rended the air with numerous diſcordant

dant yells; where to land I knew not, for ſure the ſtouteſt hero that ever wielded a ſabre muſt ſhrink from the encounter when aſſailed by ſuch a foe. But as the river narrowed, and I drew nearer to the ſhore, I perceived the griſly monſters flew back at my approach; encouraged by this, after addreſſing a ſhort prayer to Viſhnou, I reſted upon the plain.

"ALL my terrors were now turned to ſurprize and joy, when inſtead of being attacked by the monſters, I beheld them fly on every ſide like goats before the hungry dog. More ſenſibly informed by this event of the great power lodged in my heavenly ring, I proceeded undaun-

tedly to the well known garden gate, and hoped, as before, an eaſy entrance to find to the inchanted bowers; but diſappointment waited on my ſteps; the gate was faſt, nor could I devize any means of admittance to the queen. I determined, however, not to deſpair of accompliſhing my purpoſe, till I had circled the palace round, and tried every method to find an entrance, or to ſcale the lofty walls.

TIRED by preceding toils, and almoſt fainting for refreſhment, I heavily began the tedious rout, and ſlowly dragged along my wearied feet, till ſtartled by a diſtant noiſe I looked up and beheld the giant with ponderous

ſtrides

ſtrides approaching;—forgetful now of all but preſent ſafety, I inſtantly fell behind ſome friendly buſhes, and crawled upon my hands unſeen to a neighbouring grove. I reached this ſhelter, and no ſooner was ſecure from ſight than with the wings of fear I fled into its thickeſt ſhade.

"EXHAUSTED quite, and fallen to the earth, upon this beauteous ſpot I ſurely muſt have died, had not the rich fruits that lay in heaps around me afforded immediate nouriſhment to my famiſhed body. I eat voraciouſly, then in faſt ſleep ſunk down upon the graſſy pillow, nor was rouzed from my calm repoſe till the morning ſunbeams playing through the leafy

ſhade

ſhade warned me it was time to riſe.

"RESOLVING to leave the covert, and cautiouſly proceed in my intended tour round the palace walls, I got up without the leaſt conception of encountering any difficulties in my ſearch for the path by which I entered this magic grove; but alas! I was involved in an inextricable labyrinth, and wandered round and round in endleſs mazes, continually returning to the ſpot on which I ſlept, till advancing night ended my fruitleſs toil. Once more I reſted my harraſſed body beneath this verdant ſhade, but ſleep refuſed to ſhed her poppies over my head; care and anxiety oppreſſed my ſoul;

ſoul; nor could I behold the return of morning with a gladdened heart, ſo much I apprehended being detained a priſoner in this mazy labyrinth.

"I ROSE but ſlowly from my graſſy bed, nor enjoyed the rich fruits on which I made a melancholy repaſt before I renewed my hopeleſs labours. Warily I moved each ſtep, and carefully noticed each winding of the perplexing maze, till at length, when almoſt ſinking to deſpair, I ſtruck into a dark path that unexpectedly led me to a mountain's baſe: through long neglect the overgrown buſhes rendered the aſcent extremely difficult; but the ſummit gained, my labour was well rewarded by the pleaſing proſ-

pect

pect of an extenſive plain. I well marked the ſituation of the place, and running down the hill with elevated ſpirits, purſued my way with undeviating exactneſs, till extricated from the mazy wilderneſs, I joyfully entered on the plain. Which way now to ſeek the enchanted palace I wanted ſtill to know; the day was almoſt cloſed, nor could I gueſs to what point to bend my wearied ſteps; but reflecting upon the dangers of a trackleſs path when night ſpreads her ſable mantle over unknown wilds, I determined again to reſt within the labyrinth, but would not truſt my feet beyond the extremeſt verge of this ſole monument of Luconſko's ancient ſplendour, which alone was ſpared

when

when every other work of uſe or grandeur was maliciouſly deſtroyed by Rakalkas.

I SLEPT ſecurely beneath this verdant ſhade till the all-chearing ſun had ſpread his beams over the laughing ſkies; the joyful warblings of the airy choriſters awaked me, and precipitately riſing from my flowery bed, I ſpeeded acroſs the plain, and laboured up a mountain's ſteep aſcent, from whence the glittering turrets of an enchanted palace ſaluted my raptured eye. Not doubting but this was the place I wanted, with animated ſtep I purſued my way, and boldly entering into a thick wood, was far advanced in its trackleſs wilds, when ſudden

lightening

lightening ſhot its forked flames amidſt the trees with ceaſeleſs fury, while heavy thunders rattled through the darkened air as if the warring elements were at once involved in their firſt chaos. The ſtorm paſſed off, but now a ſight more terrible un-nerved my ſinking body; which way ſoever I turned my aching eyes, the blazing trees proclaimed the wood on fire, while the horrid crackling of falling branches beſpoke its quick approach. Long in expectation, I had waited for the threatening flames to ſend me in a fiery chariot to the gods, when with wonder I perceived they neither conſumed the trees, nor approached any nearer to the ſpot on which I ſtood; encouraged by this obſervation, I boldly advanced

advanced on my way, and knowing it now to be all enchantment, unamazed ſaw the receding fires fly off on every ſide till I had paſſed the wood.

A FLOWERY vale delicious as the warmeſt fancy could imagine, and fertile as the valleys of Perwat, adjoined the wood; and, winding between two little hills, led to a lofty range of mountains whoſe cloud-topt ſummits were crowned with pines and towering cedars. Seeing the toils before me, I gladly repoſed beneath the grateful ſhade of a cool grotto which running under the mountain, was over-grown with downy moſs and ever-verdant myrtle. Cloſe by the entrance

entrance of this delightful cavern, ran a lucid rill which gently murmured acroſs the plain in ſerpentine meanders till it was loſt behind the hills. I banquetted deliciouſly on the fruits which hung in golden cluſters round me, then ſlaked my thirſt from the ſilver ſtream, and reſigned my body to needful reſt.

SOON as the morning's orient ray's began to chaſe darkneſs from the earth, I banquetted again on the fruits of this rich vale, and being well refreſhed began my laborious progreſs up the ſteep mountain. I had proceeded but a little way in this toilſome journey when a huge ſerpent fiercely ſprang from the height before me, and darted

forward

forward with terrific ſpeed, while its hideous hiſſings whiſtled through the air, and with frighted horror ſtagnated my frozen blood. I drew my ſabre mechanically, but ſtood torpid as one faſcinated and waiting for his fate. The fiery monſter ſettled upon a rock juſt before me where he folded up his body in an hundred valving circles, then ſuddenly roſe upon his pointed tail, and furiouſly darting at me from the precipice, was loſt in air!

I ONCE more proceeded couragiouſly on my way, and undauntedly met a fierce tyger which alſo ſeemed appointed to defend the paſs. He ſhook his ſhaggy ſides, rolled his fiery eyes, and loudly yelling, opening his

horrid mouth wide as a ſpreading gulph. Theſe empty menaces only provoked my ſmiles, brandiſhing therefore my ſabre in his view, I braved him to come on; at this the monſter ruſhed down to the rock, and from thence making a furious ſpring, he too flaſhed like livid lightening through the air.

I NOW aſcended the rock myſelf, and being ſeated thereon, devotion filled my ſoul, and with rapturous gratitude I lifted up my chearful voice to Viſtnou in this extemporaneous ſong.

ODE TO VISTNOU.

I.

THOU, goddeſs! mark'd the ſer-
pent dire,
Enrapt in flames of livid fire,
Whoſe terrific hiſſing,
With tremendous whizzing,
Ruſh'd furious through the trembling
air!
Ah! mark'd ye not the dreary courſe
he came,
When ſpreading terror and diſpair,

His fiery eyes, and poiſon'd breath,
Wrathfully menac'd inſtant death,
And quite un-nerv'd Nourjahad's
ſinking frame.

II.

Ah hark! immortal Viſtnou ſpeaks,
The Sorc'rer's mutter'd ſpells ſhe
breaks!
See darting into air,
And loſt in ſudden glare,
The terror-ſtriking monſter's flown!
Raging Rakalkas waves his ebon
rod!
To him hell's fierceeſt ſpirits obed'ent
nod!
But monſter! whence that heavy
groan?

Ceaſe

Ceaſe thy rude ſpells, this is not magic's hour,
Viſtnou marks thee from her ſapphire throne,
And pitying man, controuls thy ghaſtful pow'r.

My devotions ended, I journeyed to the ſummit of the mountain without farther obſtruction or diſaſter, and here from amidſt the tall pines viewed a vaſt champaign country extended far as the eye could reach; but what delighted me much more, the glittering turrets of a magnificent palace at a ſmall diſtance aroſe to my gladdened view, with a capacious garden behind it running on to an almoſt endleſs diſtance. Not doubting but this was

Saraſſada's priſon, my joy ſo much overcome my intellects that it was long before I obſerved a moſt prodigious lake between the mountain and the palace walls. Whether I looked up or down I ſaw no end to the lake, nor any ſufficient narrowing to venture over without a boat. That I had ſeen the garden wall at my firſt landing in Luconſko was very certain, but where I had croſſed the river, or how I could have this immenſe water between the palace and myſelf, was an unfathomable myſtery; pondering thus I deſcended the lofty mountain in ſlow meditation, till having got near the bottom I reſolved it all into enchantment, and not doubting but the water, like the fire, would fly at my approach

quickened

quickened my ſteps and running to the brink of the lake daſhed in, but here alas! my ring failed me, the water was real, and I was almoſt drowned for my temerity.

RETURNING to land again as well as I could, I threw myſelf down upon the graſs in an agony of deſpair, concluding now that all my toils were fruitleſs, and that I never more ſhould find the way to my royal miſtreſs over this curſed enchanted ground. My ravings were equally loud and unreaſonable; for though I came not now by the command of the gods, yet the continued virtues of my ring proved that I had not forfeited their favour and protection. Reflections of this

kind had juſt entered my brain, and I was falling into penſive ſilence, when a reverend ſage, whoſe ſhining auburn hair being bound with the ſacred fillet, proclaimed him one of the firſt of his order in wiſdom and power, though in years he was but a youth, came unobſerved to the ſpot on which I lay, and accoſted me thus:—

"WHENCE theſe complaints, my "ſon! have the gods forſaken thee, or "art thou unwarrantably impatient? "ariſe! partake of refreſhment needful to thy jaded body, then anſwer "me."

I BOWED obedience to the ſage and wondering followed him to a ſhaggy cavern

cavern at the mountain's baſe. The top and ſides of the dank vault perpetual dropt a chilling ſhower to health obnoxious; no ſigns of mortal reſidence appeared to view; even the griſly monſters of the foreſt ſagacious fled this dreary den. Shocked at the entrance I heſitated whether to proceed, when the reverend Brahman turning to me with a placid brow, and ſmiling at my ſtartled countenance, bade me 'follow fearleſs, for this was 'but the portal to his habitation.' Through many gloomy windings then we paſſed, till coming to a ſteep deſcent he waved his ivory wand, and inſtantly a glittering throne aroſe to view; ſeating himſelf on this, he placed me by his ſide; and now we found

found an eaſy paſſage to a capacious cavern, illuminated by an hundred blazing lights, whoſe chearful rays again reflected by a thouſand rich mirrors, glorioufly compenſated for the ſun's abſent beams. The walls in myſtic figures, adorned with blazing diamonds, ſapphires of brighteſt azure, the pale emerald, and all the jewels moſt prized on earth, repreſented the wonders of the gods in almoſt living characters. Rich ſophas, and every convenience requiſite to eaſe and pleaſure, were plenteous in this grand ſalon, and magnificent beyond mortal conception. The Brahman produced from his ſtores a repaſt of the richeſt viands luxury could aſk; then making himſelf

ſelf a temperate meal on fruit and water, bade me purſue my taſte, I took what was neceſſary for refreſhment, then told the holy man my errand and my adventures.

To my tale he liſtened attentive, as one who wanted information, then waving his wand, two folding doors burſt open with a ſtartling noiſe, and to my aſtoniſhed view diſplayed the pictured ſtory of thy ſlave from my birth. The colouring was nature's ſelf, and all the figures were limned with ſuch forceful expreſſion, that as the pannels ſucceſſive diſappeared, they ſeemed alive and ſtarting from the canvaſs. Silent through aſtoniſhment, I beheld this wondrous ſcene

till

till all was paſt, and the vacant boards were covered with a map of ſome unknown country. Diſguſted, as rather expecting the ſtory of my future fate, I turned from this heavy view, and impatiently aſked the holy man, "if "his art was exhauſted in diſcovering "what I already knew."—"Be not "fretful, my ſon!" mildly he replied, "in that map, although ſurveyed with "ſuch indifference, thou art deeply "intereſted; view it with attentive "eyes, and therein ſhalt thou trace "thy travels through Luconſko almoſt "to Gurtha's dreary palace, while "every ſtep was widening thy diſ-"tance from Saraſſada.—Yonder be-"hold her pictured turrets riſe due "weſt from the courſe purſued by

thy

"thy miſtaken feet.—Ah! well for
"thee that yon viſionary lake, appear-
"ing ſo broad, but in reality a narrow
"river, ſtopt thy progreſs, elſe hadſt
"thou ſurely fallen into the murder-
"ous hands of Rakalkas' cruel ſiſter,
"and by the moſt lingering tortures
"gratified the vengeful barbarity of
"that bloody hag.—Praiſe the gods,
"my ſon, nor fear that ought ſhall
"moleſt thee in thy travels to the
"captive queen; but ceaſe thy cares
"to-night."——Both ſinking then to calm repoſe, we ſlept in peace.

In this illuminated cavern all diſtinction between night and day was imperceptible; but to ſupply this deficiency the wiſe Brahman had formed

a wonderous ſelf-moving machine, that invariably ſhewed the ſun's riſing and diurnal progreſs: looking up to this he ſaw the day was far advanced, and called me from the couch of indolence, which paſt fatigue had ſoftened to my wearied limbs.

BEING riſen, the holy Brahman ſpread before me a ſlight repaſt, and "ſaid:——"My ſon! we muſt not "part to-day; I penetrate the wiſhes "of thy heart, and will unfold to thee "the ſtory of my life."

"SELDOM are the ſons of royalty "educated in the ſchool of virtue; "but, though born a prince, it was my "happineſs to deſcend from a wiſe

"and

" and virtuous mother, who carefully
" cultivated in my infant mind the
" the ſeeds of generoſity, humanity,
" friendſhip, and all the virtuous and
" benevolent affections neceſſary to
" obtain that general eſteem, the con-
" ſciouſneſs of which, to a perſon of
" delicacy and ſenſibility, is the moſt
" eſſential ingredient of happineſs.

Too early taken from this tender
" parent, I was committed to the tu-
" torage of a ſpecious hypocrite, whoſe
" corrupt heart was abſolutely unſuſ-
" ceptible of any great or generous
" ſentiment. He taught me the rudi-
" ments of ſcience, but by unwearied
" application I ſoon ſoared above him
" in every branch of knowledge. This

" raiſed

"raiſed his envy, the effects of which "fell heavy on my head. Nozarad "was a favourite with my royal fa-"ther, and by his ſycophantic flat-"teries, ingratiated himſelf ſo highly in "the weak old man's eſteem, that all "his ſayings paſſed for ſtricteſt truth. "The villain ſaw his power, and hav-"ing by ſcandalous aſperſions gradu-"ally weaned Baraddin from all pa-"rental affection towards me, dared "at length to accuſe me of traiterous "deſigns againſt his royal perſon. I "made the beſt defence I could, but "was baniſhed for ever from the "kingdom.

"A JUST and noble indignation "fired my ſoul at this baſe ſentence,

"but

" but from regard to my aged father,
" I checked its emotions, and in ſilent
" ſorrow left the court. The world
" was all before me, nor did I heſi-
" tate a moment where to chuſe my
" place of reſidence. With immenſe
" riches I entered one of the neigh-
" bouring ſtates as a merchant, which
" was the character that I determined
" to ſupport till, by Baraddin's death,
" I could obtain an opportunity to aſ-
" ſert my rights.

" Ah, Nourjahad! how little was I
" qualified to act the part I had aſ-
" ſumed. The ingenuous youth, when
" he firſt finds himſelf ſuſceptible of
" ſocial connections, and at liberty to
" purſue the bent of his diſpoſitions,

" feels his expanded heart animated
" with the warmeſt ſenſations of
" boundleſs benevolence; the ſocial
" and virtuous affections have full poſ-
" ſeſſion of his ſoul; nor can he, but
" from the frequent ſufferings of re-
" iterated experience, ever be induced
" to believe that the ſelfiſh paſſions
" have generally corrupted the ſtate
" of ripened manhood. The want of
" this experience drew me into ſuch
" innumerable ſnares and difficulties
" that my large wealth was ſoon ex-
" hauſted. Frequent diſappointments
" ſoured my temper, and brought me
" to entertain ſo bad an opinion of
" mankind, that it was only by cloſely
" reflecting upon my own ſenſations
" and principles of action, that I could

" be

" be convinced of the real exiſtence of
" juſtice, friendſhip, or any moral vir-
" tue, in the human heart. Whoever
" is virtuous himſelf, will know that
" the principles of virtue are deeply im-
" planted in our nature, and whoever
" attends to the operations of his own
" mind, muſt perceive how difficult it
" is to ſtifle the feelings of benevo-
" lence, and by what imperceptible
" degrees the ſelfiſh get the maſtery
" of the ſocial affections.—Theſe re-
" flections, while they raiſed my won-
" der at the univerſality of man's cor-
" ruption, buoyed up my ſpirits with
" the diſtant proſpect of ſome—when
" meeting with ſincerity and honeſt
" virtue in the world; this conſoled
" me under the affliction derived from

" the fruſtration of my hopes in every
" ſocial and ſentimental connection I
" had hitherto formed; but the falſe-
" hood of Zillia deſtroyed my reaſon,
" and effectually drove me from all
" intercourſe with my ſpecie.

" ZILLIA was the widow Moradab,
" who, in the days of my ſplendour,
" when the fiends of flattery and
" adulation ſurrounded my table, and
" ſcarcely left me in the ſolitary hours
" of repoſe, invited me to his country
" retirement; there I firſt ſaw the
" beauteous Zillia, and in the ſame
" moment became her paſſionate ado-
" rer, but conſidering her as the wife
" of my friend, indulged my paſſion
" only in thoſe playful gallantries that

" innocence

" innocence and chearfulneſs naturally
" inſpire, and theſe too, as ſoon as I
" could form a pretence for ſuddenly
" returning to the city, I reſolutely
" quitted that I might not fall a vic-
" tim to my diſhonourable flame.

" LOVE, with all its ſoft allurements,
" now became my conſtant companion;
" my ſoul was oppreſſed with a ten-
" der melancholy, and every pleaſure
" was inſipid but that of muſing on
" Zillia's matchleſs charms. In this
" penſive ſtate I continued, till one
" day walking through the ſtreets of
" Golconda, I ſaw a numerous train
" of ſlaves bearing their miſtreſs in an
" open car; neceſſity obliged me to
" ſtand up till they had paſſed, and a-

" mazement, rapture and ſtupidity,
" locked up all the active powers of
" my frame, when I ſaw it was Zillia
" herſelf, unveiled, and in a widow's
" habit. She paſſed on ſo ſwiftly,
" that e'er I had at all recovered from
" my confuſion, or returned her ſa-
" lute, ſhe was loſt to view, diſtrac-
" tion ſeized me when my active
" powers firſt returned, and I ran
" through the ſtreets calling in vain
" upon Zillia, till being met by one of
" my faithful ſlaves he conducted me
" home. Penſive and ſullen for a
" time I ſat, then haſtily calling for
" my tablets, wrote this ode:——

STUPIDITY,

AN IRREGULAR

ODE.

I.

AWAY intruding common ſenſe!
From heav'n to man deſcended,
Your influence is ended,
Then fly this hated reſidence;
Now to the grave and ſolid go,
They can well your merits trace,
To them your worth is known:

Clouds from me conceal your face,
Your kindred I diſown,
And all your ſacred gifts forego.

II.

HAIL Stupidity! from Morpheus ſprung,
With leaden eye, and ſtammering tongue,
Come! thy laſt born ſon to own,
Down from thy foggy realms, oh goddeſs!
In garments looſe and leather boddice,
Come! and drag me to thy throne,

III.

WITH thy ſable robes ſurround me,
With thy thickeſt fumes confound me,
Then Zillia bring, nor fear her charms
Shall wake the ſoul by thee poſſeſt;
Thou alone canſt blunt thoſe arms,
That elſe would wound each manly breaſt.

IV.

WHAT though by nature ſhe's deſign'd,
Our ſex to poliſh and refine,
Though with her dwell the graces,
She

She ſcarce ſhall rouze the ſoul ſupine,
To thee in cloſeſt union join'd,
And wrapt in thy embraces.

V.

But goddeſs! ne'er forſake thy ſon,
A moment leave him not alone,
Though with thy thickeſt miſts ſurrounded,
For if thou doſt thyſelf depart,
No more his ſenſes are confounded;
He'll waking curſe his fate,
From thee his blunders date,
Nor daring more with Zillia's name to deck his lays,

To

To blackeſt melancholy he'll conſign
his days,
And to diſtraction yield his heart.

VI.

Now goddeſs! now thy influence
I feel,
In darkeſt clouds immers'd my
ſenſes reel,
Black tartarian vapours fumigate my
brain——
Ah! Zillia comes!—ſhe goes!
The laughing loves, and ſportive
graces in her train.
With me ſhe leaves the burſting
tears,
With me th' oppreſſive woes,
And ſorrow lags behind her;

Oh

Oh goddeſs run!
Aſſiſt thy ſon,
To catch the ſwiftly flying fair,
She's nimbler than the hunted hare,
Her leſs'ning form now diſappears,
Nor know I where to find her.

VII.

Then farewel peace, and farewel joy,
Ye ſportive pleaſures all adieu;
Come cares and frowns that bliſs deſtroy,
My woe-fraught heart belongs to you.
Bleſt Morad's happy ſhades no more,

My

My longing eyes ſhall e'er explore,
There gentle love, and open friendſhip reigns;
Euphroſyne there keeps her court,
Her blythſome ſiſters there reſort,
And jocund laughter revels o'er the plains.

VIII.

Oh goddeſs! how ſhall I atone my fault,
Shall I ſtoop the bending knee?
Ah! teach thy luckleſs ſon what now he ought,
From all thy vapours ſet him free.——

—"My

—"My ſon ſhe is as good as fair"—

Thanks to thy maternal care,
Farewell now to grim deſpair,
Zillia is as good as fair.

"THESE verſes found the way to Zil-
"lia at Morad, her country retire-
"ment, with the tale of my long paſ-
"ſion, and the virtuous efforts I had
"made to reſtrain my deſires while
"her lord Moradab lived. This proof
"of real love ſo deeply impreſſed her
"heart, that I was favourably re-
"ceived at Morad, and permitted to
"addreſs her in the warmeſt ſtrains
"that rapturous paſſion could inſpire.
"She made ſuch ſoft and delicate re-

"turns

" turns to my fond profeſſions, as aſ-
" ſured me in the ſtrongeſt manner
" her ſincerity and affection, till at
" length, to compleat my felicity, the
" moſt fervid vows of mutual conſtancy
" paſſed between us, and we only
" waited for the expiration of the time
" of mourning to be joined in the
" nuptial girdle of Peramſceri.

" But now misfortunes fell thick
" upon my devoted head, the friends
" in whom I truſted baſely deſerted
" me, from Zillia however, notwith-
" ſtanding this decline of fortune, I
" ſtill rationally expected that conſola-
" tion which the falſe world denied
" me. To her I flew with the cele-
" rity of a happy lover, and told in

" part

" part my tale, but ſoon as ſhe heard
" my riches were diſperſed, ſhe diſ-
" dainfully refuſed to continue the
" converſation, and ignorantly ſpurned
" from her a prince who in a few
" weeks afterwards, could have re-
" warded her tenderneſs with a
" crown.

" My firſt emotions upon this baſe
" treatment, were thoſe of rage and de-
" ſpair, and my turbulent ſoul was long
" toſſed about in a rude ſtorm of the
" moſt violent paſſions that anger,
" contempt, and diſappointment could
" excite; but at laſt, being overcome
" by its own violence, my wrath ſub-
" ſided, and now ſinking into a heavy
" ſtupor of grief, I experienced a dead
" unſocial

"unſocial calm, which over-clouded
"all the fine feelings of humanity, and
"precipitately hurried me into down-
"right miſanthropy. To indulge this
"ſavage diſpoſition I fled to the
"moſt deſert wilds of india, and took
"up my reſidence in a cavern far re-
"mote from the haunts of men, liv-
"ing on the produce of the foreſt,
"and employing my chearleſs hours
"in lamenting the falſehood and vil-
"lainy of human beings, till by endea-
"voring to ſearch out the cauſe of
"this defect from the conſtituent prin-
"ciples of our nature, I brought my
"mind to a habit of cloſe meditation,
"and improved my intellectual facul-
"ties in all the knowledge that un-
"aſſiſted reaſon could attend.

"TIME, the grand ſpecific for mortal
"ills, together with ſtudy and deep
"reflection, had the moſt beneficial
"influence on my temper; my griefs
"were alleviated, my paſſions ſoft-
"ened, and I was taught not to expect
"perfection in man, or to condemn
"all for the offences of a few. Thus
"by degrees my ill-judged antipathy
"to my ſpecie was leſſened, and in a
"few years my ſoul became recon-
"ciled to the idea of renewing a ſocial
"intercourſe with the world; I there-
"fore ſought the ſacred college of Barh-
"mins, and entered into that ſchool
"of piety and wiſdom with a warm
"deſire to anſwer the purpoſe of hea-
"ven in my creation, by the utility

of

" of my future life in promoting the
" general happineſs of mankind.

" In this holy college I found all
" my ideas of diſintereſted friendſhip,
" benevolence, and virtue realized;
" and being favoured with the com-
" munications of the guardian ſpirits
" obtained powers ſuperior to the
" powers of mortal man. From the
" exerciſe of this divine art I learned
" that Luconſko was univerſally over-
" run with the impious doctrines of
" the Samaraeths, and in imminent
" danger of being inſtantly given up
" by the angry gods to the tyranny of
" a curſed magician. The deſtined
fate of this deplorable country moved
" my compaſſion; I wiſhed for abili-

"ties to bring it back to the worſhip
"of Bramma, and from the top of the
"ſacred mountain was pouring forth
"the moſt ardent petitions to the gods
"for this purpoſe, when celeſtial
"Jexca, ſuddenly darting from the
"azure expanſe, informed me——
"That the ſentence againſt Luconſko
"was already paſt, but that it was
"heaven's high will I ſhould haſten
"to the unhappy iſland, and, reſiding
"there, exerciſe my powers in the
"defence of innocence and virtue,"
"till it was given me to deſtroy all
the giant's hell-born ſpells.

"For this deſirable event I wait
"reſigned to great Bramma's will, and
"in the mean time, as far as my con-

fined

"fined powers permit, counter-act the "monſter's machinations—around the "beauteous Saraſſada I have placed a "celeſtial guard to defend her from "enchantment or brutality, till heaven "ſends her mighty deliverer to her reſ-"cue—You may go ſecure, nor dread "Rakalkas' power."

THE good Brahman Marazan having ended the detail of his life, we paſſed the remainder of the day in inſtructive converſation, and early on the next morning he rouſed me to go to the enchanted palace that I might carry conſolation to the weeping Saraſſada. Soon as a ſlight repaſt was finiſhed, the ſage waved his ivory wand, and

inſtantly the obedient walls opened an entrance to another cavern in which appeared a ſilver car of curious workmanſhip, with two harneſſed lions ready to obey their lord; the car was mounted on four wheels of ſilver, and ſeemed a jeſſamine bower, whoſe intertwiſted branches formed an arch bearing in its central front a lucid globe that illuminated the whole cavern; the leaves were emeralds, and ſparkling diamonds were the flowers, which being ſet in ſilver wire played looſely in the air as the chariot rolled along. The lions pawed and ſhook their ſhaggy manes as pleaſed at our approach, and being now ſeated on a green velvet ſopha embroidered thick with

with gold, Marazan ſiezed the reigns and ſwiftly we drove on through the dark bowels of the earth which opened a ready paſſage to the enchanted gardens of the fair queen.

WE aroſe in the moſt ſolitary part of the garden where thick wood impervious to ſight grew round, and here the Brahman ſetting me down from the car, directed me to where Saraſſada indulged her muſings, then took a tender adieu till the happy ſeaſon of revenge, and the cloſing earth concealed him from my ſight.

I WENT gayly forward to the bower where the fair ſufferer ſat reclined, and ſinging aloud of friendſhip's ſacred

force, was heard at a ſufficient diſtance by the queen to prepare her for my approach without her ſuffering by too ſudden an alarm. She ſaw, and even flew to meet thy ſlave with the greetings of affecting joy—ah! royal ſovereign, how keen muſt be the pains of her ſuſceptive ſoul, if they make the great Saraſſada joy as at the ſight of an equal to behold the ſlave Nourjahad!—but ſo it was; ſhe condeſcended to ſieze me by the hand, and with the fluttering emotions of rapture and ſurprize, aſked me twenty queſtions in a breath about Zemandra, my royal lord, her brave general and the reſpective dominions of Mindano and Malacca without waiting for an anſwer to any; but leading me to the bower

ſhe

ſhe grew compoſed, and with calm dignity attended to my tale, when I told her all that had paſſed in her abſence; with grateful tears ſhe heard of Zemandra's love, and the gallant bravery of my royal lord, and joyed at the hope of deliverance, "which ſhe "ſaid would enable her to bear the "remainder of her captivity with tran-"quil reſignation to the gods, the juſt "avengers of evil, and merciful accep-"tors of repentance."—

"To indulge unwarrantable paſſi-"ons, continued the queen, I left the "kingdom aſſigned me by the gods, "and wiſhed to ſearch a new ſettle-"ment in unknown regions—juſt is "their puniſhment of my folly!—

"but

"but mercy is mingled with their ſe-
"vereſt juſtice—though delivered in-
"to the iron hands of ruthleſs Rakal-
"kas, the monſter cannot hurt me; a
"conſtant guard of celeſtial ſpirits de-
"fends me from his power!—Scarcely
"was the private door ſhut upon you
"and the brave general, when Rakal-
"kas burſt precipitately into the room,
"foaming with rage, and ſwearing
"horrible revenge againſt ſome con-
"cealed paramour. The ſorcerer had
"by his art diſcovered that you was
"with me, and truſted to his ſpells to
"confine you in the chamber; but
"here his magic failed him; you was
"ſafely flown, and vain were all his
"ſearches to diſcover how. Rage
"turned to madneſs in his black brain,
"and

"and on me he poured a thouſand
"horrid threats of inſtant ruin, which
"he ſurely would have perpetrated,
"had not the gods interfered—his
"broad hand was already ſtretched
"out to ſeize me, when ſudden thun-
"der burſt the vaulted ceiling, and a
"holy Brahman, ſabre in hand, de-
"ſcended between the tyrant and my-
"ſelf, crying out, "Hold, bloody
"monſter! ſee yon heavenly guard,
"and know them henceforth for Sa-
"raſſada's protectors from brutality
"and luſt, Whatever thou canſt
"freely gain by tenderneſs and love,
"the gods aſſign thee, but no more."

"The tyrant looking up, ſaw a-
"midſt the ſplendour of celeſtial light,

"a

" a thouſand ſeraphic ſpirits fluttering
" on their ſilken wings around my
" couch. Sickening at the view, he
" yelled and roared terrific in notes of
" wrathful vengeance for Pixaxo and
" his infernal crew; armed at all points
" in clouds of ſulphureous ſmoke they
" came, and now the palace tumbling
" with horrid noiſe lay on the earth a
" a heap of fallen ruins, while, won-
" derous to tell! ſecure upon my
" couch with the tender maid Reneca
" by my ſide, I ſat aloft in the mid
" air, and ſaw the angelic and infer-
" nal bands in rough battle meet. Rude
" was the ſhock and greatly terrible
" to behold. Thunders againſt thun-
" ders hurled ſwept whole ranks a-
" way. Now in the air, now on the

" earth

" earth they fought, and all the jarring
" elements were called to aſſiſt in this
" mighty war, till at length Virapaten,
" in a chariot of livid fire, with terror
" on his front, and diſmay in his rear,
" ruſhed furious from the ranks of the
" celeſtials, and hurling fierce thun-
" ders through the infernal hoſt, en-
" countered Pixaxo with ſuch a mighty
" ſhock as ſent him howling to the
" dark regions; whither he preſently
" was followed by the whole band of
" his routed troops. The ſhouting ce-
" leſtials with ſongs of victory aſcen-
" ded to their ſtarry thrones, while
" gently ſinking to the earth I was
" placed in this bower, where the
" monſter Rakalkas was howling at
" the good Brahman's feet. The holy

" man

" man aſſured me of my future ſafety
" while heaven permits me to remain
" in the giant's power, and then with
" looks of complaiſance and love re-
" ceded from my ſight.

" THE tyrant ſeeing me alone,
" aroſe from the ground, and with af-
" ſumed tenderneſs addreſſed me on
" the hated ſubject of his paſſion, then
" waving his black rod, the palace in-
" inſtantly appeared with additional
" ſplendour to my view. Rakalkas
" pays me that diſtant reſpect which
" I enjoin, and ſeldom troubles me
" with his hated viſits, ſo that my life
" paſſes on in a dull uniformity of
" ſolitary amuſements and penſive me-
" ditation. Such tell Zemandra is the
" ſtate of Saraſſada now."

A FEW days the fair queen detained me to amuſe her heavy hours with particular details of every circumſtance I knew relating to her friends, the Borneon war, and your future deſigns, and then diſmiſſed me. I found my little boat uninjured, and ſoon reaching the bark, ſailed on with proſperous gales till yeſterday.—My royal maſter knows the reſt."

NOURJAHAD having here ended his tale, Rajah Kiſna ordered his ſcribe to write it on ivory tablets and tranſmit it to Zemandra by a truſty meſſenger. ——Then turning to Arakan, bade him enfranchiſe his ſlave; the good lord inſtantly obeyed the royal mandate, and the king gave Nourjahad a place of

of truſt about his perſon, then withdrew from the garden to the buſineſs of the regal council.

END OF THE SECOND VOLUME.